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Hafa Adai!

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'More security, more jobs'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

» Wittman stresses economic benefits in store for Marianas as part of buildup

Visiting members from the U.S. House Armed Service subcommittee on Readiness said Friday that the military buildup in the Marianas means more economic benefits and security to the region and sought to allay concerns about unfunded promises to both Guam and the CNMI made as part of these plans.

See SECURITY on Page 4

DENNIS B. CHAN

U.S. Rep. Rob Wittman and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo address reporters during a press conference at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center last Friday night.

Judge orders payment of 25 pct pension to retirees

» Hocog says govt will treat as commitment payment of 100 pct pension to retirees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Settlement Fund Trustee Joyce C. H. Tang and Settlement Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan on Friday to process the 25 percent pension payments to retirees that were due last Feb. 12.

Tydingco-Gatewood issued the order for payments after hearing from Tang, deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio, and acting governor Victor B. Hocog that the concerns that prevented the disbursement of the 25 percent pension checks has been resolved with Hocog's signing of three

See JUDGE on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog, center, emerges from Horiguchi Building with Senate President Francisco Borja (Ind-Tinian) and House Speaker Ralph Demapan (R-Saipan) after Friday's hearing on the issue of payments of 25 percent pension benefits to retirees.

'Cape Air violated federal regs between 2014, 2015'

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Senate has drawn the attention of the U.S. Department of Transportation to federal regulations they believe United/Cape Air has violated during a "heavy maintenance period" between 2014 and 2015 that saw hundreds of passengers flying to and from Guam affected by a series of cancelled and delayed flights.

Sens. Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan) and Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) point federal officials to the regulations of "on time performance," "flight service notification," and "unrealistic scheduling regulations" that they believe the airlines has violated, in a letter to the transportation department on Feb. 17.

"In our opinion, Cape Air violated all three applicable regulations," the senators said.

On "on time performance," the senators said Cape Air flight delays ranged from three to 10 hours, with cancellations lasting from one to several days. The delays and cancellations occurred weekly and sometimes a couple times a week or daily during Cape Air's heavy maintenance period, they add.

Palacios and Igisomar acknowledge that while the delay or cancellations may not have occurred more than half of the time of its flights, every delay caused "economic hard-

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INSIDE

LOCAL

Clarice Mhae Canarejo showed the confidence and poise that the judges were looking for and was crowned the 2016 Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy.

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ASIA

Officials in Fiji scrambled to assess damage Sunday in the wake of a ferocious cyclone that tore through the Pacific island chain.

» PAGE 16

8 DAYS
CDMA SHUTDOWN
IS FEBRUARY 29
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Life In Motion

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Local

FROM 500 TO 57 GALLONS PER MINUTE:

Low water supply observed in Donni Springs, other wells

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

While many of the water pumps that needed replacement on Saipan are installed and fixed, several villages are still experiencing issues in their water supply.

This is due to the low water supply being generated from the source.

"Because of the low supply, the drought [is] affecting maybe Donni Springs and Agag wells, two major suppliers. While the pumps are in, the production isn't the same," Commonwealth Utilities Corp. acting executive director Gary Camacho told the board of directors in a meeting last Wednesday.

Camacho said the problem will be a "growing issue."

» NWS: water supply should be monitored, conservation advised

Among the villages experiencing water issues is Garapan where just last November, CUC was able to supply 24-hour water service to the whole area.

Representatives from CUC's Water and Waste Water Division, headed by acting manager Richard Wasser, reported that Donni Springs, which is among the main supplier for Garapan, has significant decrease in water supply,

Donni Springs used to supply up to 500 gallons per minute. Today, however, it is only producing 57 gallons per minutes.

Garapan alone has a water demand of about 700 gallons per minute.

Responding to board inquiries on how much of the water demand is attributed to leaks, the management said it can't be quantified.

Camacho

However, the division said it was able to reduce its total unaccounted for water from 70 percent three years ago, to 60 percent today.

"We've reduced our accounted for water," chief engineer John Riegel said, "Unaccounted for water is compromised of three things, leaks, theft, and inaccurate billing."

CUC said they have an active leak detection unit and within almost a month since Jan. 24, CUC was able to detect and repair 79 leaks.

Wasser said they are in the process of hiring additional personnel for their division and adding crews to their leak detection unit.

Asked by the board if water issues will worsen throughout the year, CUC said they hope not to make it worse than it is.

"We hope to be improving our leak detection and leak repairs at the same rate that the drought is taking effect on our water systems. Our goal is to not make it worse than it is," Wasser said.

Water monitoring, conservation

In their updated drought statement issued last Thursday, the National Weather Service said water supplies are needed to be monitored closely.

"Water supplies need to be monitored very closely and

See WATER on Page 4

Local bands serenade at Paseo de Marianas

Local bands were featured at the second weekend of the Lunar New Year celebrations at the Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last Saturday.

Musicians such as Roman Tudela, with his ukulele, and the Revive Band rendered songs from various genres for residents and tourists passing by and watching.

K-pop entertainers also performed to bring joy to the audience.

Last Saturday, performers from off-island also made a great show giving the audience a taste of the authentic Chinese and Korean cultures and art.

According to Marianas Visitors Authority's Destination Enhancement Committee chair Ed Arriola Jr., they want to hold regular events like these in Paseo in the hopes of reviving the area as well as the rest of Garapan.

Arriola said they are targeting to hold monthly shows in Paseo to bring more people in the area.

Based on the exit surveys that the tourists fill out when leaving the islands, Arriola said those who visit the CNMI wanted more nighttime activities, activities that showcase the islands' culture, and other exciting activities.

"The tourists that we are getting now are not the same. They've seen it all," Arriola said.

Arriola said holding regular events in Paseo would serve the purpose of why the road was closed down in the first place in 2003. He said the area is safe for everyone to have a good time as the police are just nearby.

Arriola said they plans to hold an Easter egg hunt in Paseo in March in celebration of Easter Sunday. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

CDA board passes resolution on accounts, loans signatories

By FRAULEINE VILLANUEVA-DIZON
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority board of directors passed a resolution to designate their signatories to bank accounts and loan documents.

During a special board meeting last Friday, the board adopted resolution number CDA-2016-002, "a resolution designating the signatories to CDA bank accounts and loan documents. This designation shall be valid, unless otherwise contrary to applicable law or regulations, until withdrawn or amended by formal board action."

"It just so happened in the history of CDA that every one of the officers are off-island and that's not going to be forever. So we have to amend it temporarily until circumstances change again," CDA board chair Ignacio Perez said.

The designations in the resolution amend the designations contained in CDA resolution number 2012-001 that was adopted by the CDA board on May 2012.

Based on the new resolution, the required signatories for all checks drawn from CDA's operations and receiving accounts shall be the executive director of CDA, or anyone legally acting in that capacity, and the either the economic development analyst or the loan manager.

The CDA chairperson or vice chairperson may serve as substitute signature in the event a required signatory is unavailable.

For Development Corporation Division accounts and loans, one signature from management and one from the board of directors shall be required.

The executive director is the primary signatory. The economic development analyst shall be the substitute when the executive director is not available. For the board, the DCD chair, vice chair, CDA chair, or a designee from the remaining board members may sign.

For Development Banking Division accounts, the CDA chair, or his designee from the remaining board members, and the executive director are the required signatories

"These designations shall be valid, unless otherwise contrary to applicable law or regulations, or until withdrawn or amended by formal board action," the resolution read.

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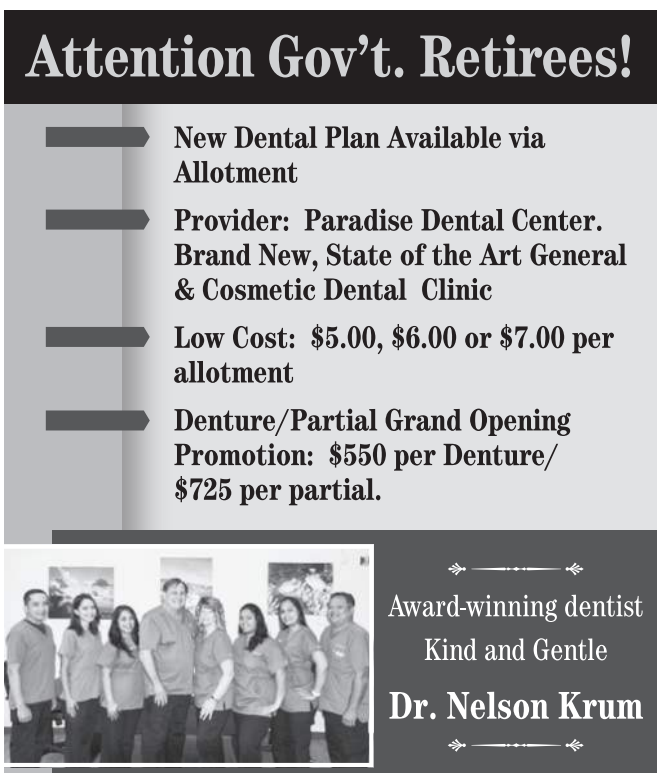
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Commission wants to revamp landlord, tenant laws

By DENNIS B. CHAN
dennis_chan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth's outdated landlord and tenant laws are set for an overhaul.

The new legislation—put together by stakeholders in Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' Commission on Economic Opportunity over the last several months—comes in line with concerns birthed from the recent property takeovers and displaced tenants by a rampant rise in new development and the onslaught of Typhoon Soudelor last year, and will be introduced in the House of Representatives by Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan).

"A few months ago, I met with several individuals who were displaced because the apartment units they were renting were sold by the landlord," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune*. "The absence of laws that govern contractual relationships between a landlord and tenant caused unnecessary hardship to the affected tenants."

"The intent of the draft legislation to ensure that we have a statute that will provide a more acceptable and balanced protection for both landlords and tenants," he said.

The draft legislation, copies of which were obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, is a 56-page document that largely clarifies the obligations that landlords and tenants have to each other in their leases.

One proposed provision, among others on "tenant duties," says tenants may not engage in or permit an immediate family member or guest to engage in any criminal activity. The statute, if enacted, could provide grounds for landlords who catch tenants using ice, or crystal methamphetamine, to evict them pursuant to law, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Another proposed provision, among many others, creates avenues for a victim of domestic violence, stalking, or sexual assault, who fears further harm if they continued to live in their residence, to be released from their lease.

Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* that over the years, the Commonwealth has seen increased development—and with that—comes increased demand for residential dwellings for rent or lease.

"After reviewing our statutes, we found that P.L. 10-67 was not just outdated, rather, it lacked the necessary protections and safeguards for tenants," Demapan said. "The legislation we are working on now will provide a more efficient and effective framework for both landlords and tenants.

"The lack of any statutes has created an uncertain rental market in the Commonwealth, while negatively affecting the economy," Torres said in a statement last week.

Torres said the new legislation addresses the "ambiguous" obligations for landlords and tenants and "cerates a comprehensive statutory structure to protect" their interests.

Court server acquitted of traffic charges over car-bus collision

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho has acquitted a court process server of two traffic charges over a collision between a car and a tour bus at an intersection in Lower Base.

During a bench trial last week, Camacho granted attorney Bruce Berline's motion for judgment to acquit his client, Elmer Cedeno Barrogo, of charges of speeding and failure to yield to on-coming traffic.

Camacho determined that the government failed to provide the correct traffic violations. He also found that evidence and testimony show that there was no evidence of speeding and that it was in fact, the bus driver who caused the accident.

According to court records, Barrogo's car collided with a tour bus at the intersection of Lower Base Drive and Industrial Road on July 31, 2015.

Barrogo was driving west direction when the bus coming out of the intersection failed to yield to Barrogo's on-coming car.

At the trial, bus driver Albert Apollo testified that he stopped at the Lower Base Drive intersection and that when he tried to make a left turn to Industrial Road, the bus was hit by Barrogo's car.

No one suffered serious injury. Barrogo, 55, however, was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center for neck pain.

Police officer Danny Fitial testified that he did not see any skid marks, there was no posted speed limit at the area, and that the vehicles' airbags did not deploy.

Fitial used his "heel to toe" to mark off about 160 feet from Middle Road to Lower Base Drive because he did not have the equipment to make a more accurate measurement.

Fitial testified that Barrogo stated that he was traveling about 30 miles per hour.

Fitial concluded that speed was a factor based on the damage to the car and the bus.

In acquitting Barrogo, Camacho said on the speeding charge, the government incorrectly labeled as capital "B" in the citation instead of a small "b."

On the failure to yield charge, Camacho said the government incorrectly labeled as capital "B" in the citation instead of small "b."

The judge said it seems like a small thing, but it is the government's legal obligation to correctly list the correct traffic violation.

Camacho said if the government is going to issue a ticket for a traffic violation, then it should make sure to indicate the correct subsection of the traffic code.

Camacho said even giving the government the benefit that Barrogo was given proper citation, based on the testimony, evidence and exhibits received, the prosecution has failed to prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt.

Camacho said the only statement about speed was defendant's own words that he was traveling about 30 miles per hour.

Camacho said where "about" means more or less than 30 miles per hour, the court could not determine with evidence provided by the government.

The judge noted that the officer lacks the proper training such as traffic re-construction to make the determination of the speed based on the amount of vehicle damage. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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JUDGE

From Page 1

emergency measures into law late Thursday afternoon.

The Settlement Fund last Feb. 12 returned to the Department of Finance the check intended for payments of the 25 percent pension. As a result, over 3,000 retirees did not get their checks.

At a video teleconference hearing on Friday, Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson informed the court that the money is still with the Settlement Fund because they did not cash the check.

Tydingco-Gatewood said a long-term solution for the Settlement Fund has to be addressed now.

Tydingco-Gatewood ordered Hocog to form a working group with the Legislature and Settlement Fund for long-term planning.

Hocog said he is amenable to the judge's order and that he is happy to form such working group.

Hocog then asked the court if the 25 percent pension payments could be processed that day, Friday.

Settlement Fund Trustee Tang said they could do that processing if the hearing is adjourned soon.

Asked by the judge if they want to speak, Senate President Franciso Borja (Ind-Tinian) and House Speaker Raphael Demapan (R-Saipan) refused. This prompted the judge to adjourn the hearing.

Aside from Hocog, Borja and, Demapan, among those present in court were House minority leader Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (Ind-Saipan), Settlement Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan, and Retirees Association chair Larry Cabrera.

The lawyers present were deputy attorney general Lillian Tenorio, assistant attorney general David Lochabay, Senate counsel Jose Bermudes, House counsel John Cool, Betty Johnson and class counsel Robert Hatch.

Tang discussed Hocog's signing into law Public Law 19-35, PL 19-36, and Saipan Local Law 19-12.

The signing of three public laws provides, among others, $1.8 million to the Department of Finance to pay the retirees, removes any doubt that the governor has the authority to reprogram Executive Branch funds for these pension payments, and allows taxes earmarked to the Retirement Fund to be also be used for these pension payments.

Tang said under P.L.19-35, there was an added definition of the language for public purpose that needs clarification.

Tang said her concern is how the 75 percent payment be impacted.

Tang said if the measure only resolves fiscal year 2016, it's not a long-term solution, but a short-term solution.

On P.L. 19-37, Tang said this gives the Finance secretary authority to pay 25 percent.

Tang said their position is to protect the 75 percent.

Tang also disclosed that for this second quarter of Fiscal Year 2016, the government paid $2.5 million in minimum annual payments.

She said to date the government paid a total of $2.7 million, leaving a balance of $7.75 million to be paid in the next six weeks.

She said as of that day, Friday, she learned that $1 million will be paid to the Settlement Fund from the government.

Tang thanked Hocog and lawmakers for their quick actions as she underscored the importance to have continuing communications.

Tang said there should be a long-term solution to continue the payments for the 25 percent if that's the intent of the government.

Tang also asked on the viability of taxes collected under the casino law for earmarking for the 75 percent and 25 percent pension payments.

Tydingco-Gatewood said it is important for the governor and lawmakers to work with Tang.

The judge said she is not sure if Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is just too busy because he just got on board.

Tydingco-Gatewood said he is appreciative to Hocog, who appeared in court at the recent emergency meeting and on Friday's hearing.

She said it is her hope that Hocog will continue to work with Tang as it is very important that all affected 3,000 retirees and families should receive their payments on time.

The judge said she does not want the retirees to be in panic mode situation as what had just happened.

Tydingco-Gatewood noted that so far there have been smooth payments to the retirees until recently.

Tydingco-Gatewood said Tang has a fiduciary duty to ensure payment of 75 percent.

After Friday's hearing, the judge said she is hoping that there will be no more emergency hearings.

Tydingco-Gatewood said if no proper planning for source of funding, the funding for payments for the 75 percent will be depleted by 2019.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SECURITY

From Page 1

Readiness subcommittee chair Rob Wittman (R-VA 1st District) and Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-GU) spoke to reporters Friday night before a sit-down dinner with CNMI leaders and a trip to Tinian to tour Department of Defense project sites the next day. Wittman said they would be visiting Saipan, Tinian, and Guam to look at military project sites involving the Marines and the Air Force, while highlighting "training" as important element in building readiness.

Among others, Defense plans to use Tinian for live-fire ranges and to lease the entire island of Pagan for these purposes.

"The Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas is an important part of that," said Wittman, adding they wanted to understand the full scope of what the military plans are and what concerns the CNMI may have.

"We've been working so many years on this military buildup on Guam and we would like to see Saipan and Tinian as part of it," added Bordallo.

Wittman, speaking to economic benefits, drew a parallel to his state of Virginia, where they have seven military bases either in or contiguous to his district and have the largest population of veterans and active military personnel in the U.S.

"That's an important economic impact," he said. "Our many men and women...also do an extraordinary job of volunteering their time to the community."

Asked if these "economic benefits" meant more construction and contractor jobs to the CNMI, Wittman acknowledged this briefly but spoke more to "multiplier effects" of military personnel and families' spending money and the local services related to that.

"All of that goes back into the local economy," Wittman said.

Wittman highlighted their role in "getting all the pieces of information" to "build a framework" for the Defense's budget bill, the National Defense Authorization Act. The Readiness subcommittee is the largest subcommittee in the House Armed Service committee and the "most important," said Wittman.

According to an analysis by the Center for Public Integrity in 2015, Wittman is among the many lawmakers of who have received defense industry contributions for their elections and leadership committees as members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees who were not appointed as conferees for the National Defense Authorization Act.

Wittman, among lawmakers on both sides of the aisle in both the House and Senate, has received $649,969 in defense contractor contributions from a period of 2003 to 2014, according to the Center's report in July 2015.

Bordallo added that Guam has benefited greatly from the military and believes that the CNMI should participate in this. The buildup means more economic benefits and more security, she said.

"More military is more security," Bordallo said.

Bordallo acknowledged that the buildup could be "another reason to be threatened too," noting a missile defense system in Guam that her constituents objected too.

But "we are a target," she added, speaking to both Guam and the CNMI. "We must be protected. It's important we have the training," she said, and hoped "we come to some conclusion" on rifle training in the CNMI.

Wittman also said Friday that after the visit to the Marianas they would be holding hearings with the vice chiefs of the military, or the second in commands of the Air Force, Marines, and Navy.

Unfunded promises

The lawmakers were also drawn to concerns over the unfunded promises made in a programmatic agreement made as part of the Guam and CNMI military buildup in 2010.

Last October, Guam Gov. Eddie Calvo expressed concerned about the commitments made for Defense to fund a cultural repository and public health lab. "If commitments are not kept for whatever reasons there are and an agreement is broken then there is no agreement then we have to maybe start from square one," Calvo told KUAM.

On the CNMI side, DoD said in 2010 that it would seek $1.7 million to fund and authorize a curation facility on Saipan and a cultural and interpretive center on Tinian. The two projects were set at $1.2 million and $500,000, respectively.

"The requests are still there," Wittman said, when pressed on this issue. "They are still a priority."

He added that there have been time challenges but that "it was not for a lack of commitment or focus" by Congress.

"We'll be meeting with Gov. Calvo," Wittman said. "We will be reiterating our determination to make sure those projects stay on track."

Wittman said they will have to balance other military issues across other states but are "definitely committed" to the rebalance in the Pacific and the commitments that have been made for Guam and the CNMI.

"Like any other projects, you see across the United States. Sometimes there are hiccups or time delays but our job is that the commitment from the United States stays the same," he added.

To these concerns, Bordallo added that there was a restriction on funds, mainly the billions of dollars supplied by Japan for the relocation of Marines and their families from Okinawa to Guam.

"There was a restriction and it came from the Senate. And finally this restriction was lifted, except for the one section that the governor [Calvo] was referring to," Bordallo said.

"We'll be working on that," she added.

CAPE AIR

From Page 1

ship" and "personal suffering" on passengers.

"If Cape Air's connecting flight from Saipan to Hawaii is cancelled, the person cannot leave until the next day," the senators said. "That means the person will miss his meeting or be late his meeting or whatever planned occasion for which he was traveling.

"Medical referral patients," they add," have missed many appointments too due to Cape Air's flight delays and/or cancellations. If a businessman is trying to get back to Saipan from Guam and his flight is cancelled, that's another day of economic loss or lost business opportunities."

The senators also lament the irregular and sporadic flight status notifications during Cape Air's heavy maintenance period, and write that sometimes passengers receive an email or a phone call on delays or cancellations but sometimes, not at all until the passenger reaches the airport.

They write that passengers are even allowed to check in at the airport when a flight is delayed up to six hours or more, before they are told the flight is cancelled due to mechanical problems.

"Passengers spend countless hours waiting," the senators write.

The senators also believe the airlines set up an "unrealistic scheduling" of flights

The senators write that the nine-month period was a very long time to be flying one plane, and that mechanical and other problems would be expected with one plane flying five times a day.

"The problem was that Cape Air did not have an alternative flight plan for its one aircraft," Palacios and Igisomar said. "Cape Air failed to reduce its flights when the mechanical problems started.

"It maintained the same flight schedule knowing that it would be difficult if not impossible to maintain," they add. "Even when the delays and cancellations were back to back each week, Cape Air failed to change its flight schedule.

The senators further lament that United Airlines, code-share partners with Cape Air, would only step in to assist passengers when all five daily Cape Air flights were cancelled or when several flights were cancelled for two days or more.

The senators argue that Cape Air should have scheduled only three flights or less per day instead of attempting five flights a day with one plane. United also should have flown a jet plane to Saipan at least once a week to alleviate the backlog of passengers, they add.

"Instead, Cape Air 'unrealistically' continued with its scheduled flights from which it could not reasonably make due," the senators said.

The senators closed the letter by saying they look forward to receiving information on filing a consumer complaint against the United Airlines and Cape Air, and said they will continue to compile passenger complaints the senators have received since 2014 over the unreliable and poor service during the airlines' heavy maintenance period.

WATER

From Page 2

water conservation is highly encouraged," NWS said.

Furthermore, NWS said wells could have more salinity in through the coming months.

"Wells on Saipan could see an increase in salinity as the drought progresses," it added.

The amount of rainfall in the Commonwealth was also notable in that they are way below normal amounts.

"Rainfall has been well below normal the past few months and below normal rainfall will continue for the next several months," NWS said.

For the first half of February, NWS recorded a meager 0.70 inch of rain for Saipan—a far cry from the 2.60 inches of normal rainfall.

Still, Rota has it worse with only 0.62 inch of rain as opposed to the normal 5.21 inches. Tinian had 0.15 inch of rain, way below the 3.30 inches normal rainfall.

"Computer models indicate that one half inch to an inch of rain will fall through the next 10 days for most of the commonwealth. Locally higher amounts are possible and catchment equipment should be maintained in good working order. Longer range models indicate rainfall will be much lower than normal through the next month or two at least," NWS said.

9th Circuit dismisses Dynasty foreign workers' appeal

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has dismissed the appeal filed by over 500 foreign current and former workers of Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino who sued U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson and other federal officials over the denials of their CNMI-only Transitional Worker petitions, CW-1 visa permits.

The Ninth Circuit dismissed without prejudice the appeal after the parties jointly requested for such dismissal.

The Ninth Circuit allowed the plaintiffs to re-file a new and timely notice of appeal in the future.

The Ninth Circuit order did not indicate the reason why the parties agreed to dismiss the appeal.

Manglona

In their appeal, the workers asked the Ninth Circuit to reverse the federal court's ruling that granted defendants' motion to dismiss their lawsuit for lack of jurisdiction.

Last Sept. 8, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona denied the workers' request to amend their lawsuit.

Manglona ruled that as stated in her prior decision and order, the plaintiffs (workers) may re-file their lawsuit once the administrative appeals of Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd.'s petitions on their behalf are completed.

HKE owns Tinian Dynasty.

The workers sued DHS Secretary Johnson, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Director Leon Rodriguez, and USCIS California Service Center Director Kathy A. Baran over the USCIS's denial of HKE's 197 CNMI-only Transitional Worker (CW-1) petitions involving 693 beneficiaries.

Attorney Bruce Berline filed the lawsuit as counsel for Belal Hossain, Wenli Zhong, Pukar Patel, and 500 unknown co-plaintiffs.

Last May, Manglona dismissed the workers' lawsuit.

Manglona ruled that the decision to deny HKE's CW-1 visa petitions for their foreign workers is clearly not final and that the Administrative Appeals Office is currently in the process of reviewing it.

Manglona said because HKE's petition denials are not final, the court lacks submit matter jurisdiction and must dismiss the case filed by the workers.

Manglona, however, ordered that plaintiffs (workers) are allowed to refile the lawsuit after the Administrative Appeals Office has issued its decision and the agency's action is final.

The plaintiffs then filed a motion for leave to file first amended complaint.

In defendants' reply to the motion, Department of Justice Office of Immigration Litigation trial attorney Sarah L. Vuong asserted that granting the workers' request to amend their lawsuit over denials of their CW-1 visa petitions would be futile.

Vuong argued that plaintiffs' amended complaint does not remedy the fatal flaws of their original complaint. The workers then appealed. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SHEFA submission of supporting docs Feb. 29

Deadline for supporting documents is right around the corner and we would like to remind all Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance applicants to please submit their supporting documents for Spring 2016 on or before Monday, Feb. 29, 2016. This deadline applies to all new, ongoing, and returning applicants. ***(PR)***

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Kia Sportage LX retail price $22,495.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $356.34 or $164.46 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $21,380.40.
Kia Sedona LX retail price $30,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $490.99 or $226.61 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $29,459.40.
Kia Cadenza Premium retail price $35,995 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 7% APR for 60 monthly payments of $570.20 or $263.17 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $34,212.00.

Hillbroom recaptured after trying to escape Palau police

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Junior Larry Hillbroom, one of the four DNA-proven children of the late business tycoon and late DHL co-founder Larry Lee Hillblom, was recaptured hours after he allegedly escaped from police custody on Friday, just a few days after he was arrested over the seizure of $160,000 worth of 160 grams of methamphetamine or "ice."

Hillbroom, 31, was recaptured after he allegedly dove into the water and tried to swim when police tracked a vehicle at a dock in a town called Meyuns Hamlet in Palau before midnight on Friday, according to news reports.

Hillbroom was first served with an arrest warrant for a trafficking controlled substance charge when he arrived in Palau from Manila early Wednesday morning, according to a press release by Palau's Ministry of Justice.

Combined efforts of the Bureau of Public Safety, the Division of Customs, and the Belau Drug Enforcement Task Force led to Hillbroom's arrest at the Palau International Airport.

The arrest of Hillbroom came after two women who arrived from Manila last Feb. 12 were found concealing 160 grams of "ice."

Further investigation indicated that Hillbroom was the supplier of the seized "ice."

According to court papers, the two women claimed that Hillbroom "offered to pay them when they arrived in Palau."

Hillbroom allegedly paid for the women's airline tickets. Authorities allegedly recorded a phone call to Hillbroom in which he acknowledged his role in the plan to bring the illegal drugs to Palau.

Hillbroom was taken before a court on Thursday and a bail of $500,000 (RM 2.1 million) surety or $250,000 cash bond was imposed.

On Friday, Hillbroom was allegedly talking to a visitor inside the Division of Corrections when he escaped by running out the front door and jumping into a passenger side of a pickup truck that was parked outside the Koror jail.

The driver of the truck was arrested that same day.

Hillbroom's mother, Kaelani Kinney, is Palauan. Hillbroom is based in the U.S. mainland, but has been staying in Palau in recent months, according to news reports in Palau.

In September 2005, Hillbroom was arrested for allegedly in possession of "ice" and marijuana in Guam. The discovery of drugs was made after police stopped a vehicle driven by Hillbroom for driving at a high speed and failing to signal at a turn. He allegedly offered bribe money to a police officer.

Hillbroom signed a plea deal with Guam government and pleaded guilty to one count of possession of "ice." He was allowed in November 2005 to leave Palau for a drug rehabilitation center in the U.S mainland.

Guam lawyer David J. Lujan served as counsel for Hillbroom in the Guam drug case. Lujan was also the lead counsel in Hillbroom's successful legal battle in CNMI Supreme Court to claim part of Hillblom's multi-million estate.

Hillbroom's name is spelled differently from DHL co-founder Larry Hillblom.

Hillbroom has filed a legal malpractice lawsuit against Lujan and another former counsel, Barry Israel, in the U.S. District Court for the NMI. The case is still pending in court.

Hillbroom is suing the two lawyers for allegedly conspiring with a former trustee to inflate the attorney's contingency fee when Hillblom's fortune was still undergoing probate proceedings in Superior Court.

Hillblom, founder of DHL Express, died in a plane crash off Anatahan waters in 1995. His body was never recovered.

Approximately $100 million in assets were distributed to Hillbroom in the settlement of the probate case for Hillblom estate.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC doing business as Best Sunshine International respectfully announces the upcoming Public Hearing to present the laboratory results and to receive comments on the proposed sites to inter the artifacts and remains found at the Garapan site during the 2015 Archaeological Project.

Public Hearing # 1

February 23, 2016
6-8 pm
Multi-Purpose Center
Susupe

Public Hearing # 2

February 24, 2016
6-8 pm
Chaha Oceanview Middle School
Kagman

The public hearing will be conducted pursuant to the following rules:

1. All questions posed and comments made will be done in a respectful manner
2. Everyone is welcome to provide comments, however, all comments made at the public hearing will be limited to a maximum of 3 minutes.
3. Anyone wishing to provide additional comments or if anyone anticipates their comments will take longer than 3 minutes are encouraged to submit it in writing to the Historic Preservation Office.

GCA student in the International Thespian Festival

Paula Rose Talibong, Grace Christian Academy's only senior thespian participant, is one of the members of the CNMI Senior Thespian Team.

The top winners in this school year's Senior Thespians regional competition held last Feb. 6 at Northern Marianas International School will have the opportunity to compete at the International Thespian Festival on June 20-25, 2016, in Lincoln, Nebraska. Every summer, thousands of high schools Thespians bring their love of all things theatre to the International Thespian Festival, a celebration of student achievement in the performing arts.

Talibong, who won first place twice in solo musical theater for the last two monthly competitions, was shocked because she did not expect to be one of the team. She just wanted to know how she ranks that is why she patiently waited for the results even though it is already late when they announce the winners. Her family was very happy and proud of her especially her dad who is also her mentor. Her GCA family (both the school and the church) is also very proud of her. Talibong is a member of the GCA Navy Hill church worship team as a guitarist and backup singer. ***(PR)***

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

(This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds.)

BID SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 08, 2016 • TIME: 11:00 AM

NMHC IFB 2016-006
AMENDMENT #01
"Rehabilitation of Kagman Community Park"

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor Hocog, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby give notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from interested licensed companies to provide construction services for the rehabilitation of the Kagman Community Park located at the Kagman Community Center, Kagman III, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested individuals or firms may pick up a copy of the Project Package beginning **February 1, 2016** at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, during regular working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday thru Friday except CNMI and austerity holidays. A non-refundable payment of **Twenty Five Dollars *($25.00) is required for each set.*** Payment shall be by cash, credit card, money order or cashier's check (payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation).

A **mandatory pre-bid conference** will be held at **10:00 a.m. on February 18, 2016**, at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan, and all interested bidders will be given the opportunity to walk through the proposed project site, familiarize themselves with the required work and ask questions regarding the project. Attendance at this conference and site visit are considered essential to the bidders' understanding of the project elements and a company that does not have a representative in attendance at the pre-bid conference will be considered as a non-responsive bidder. For information, contact Mr. Jesse S. Palacios, Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI and austerity holidays.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the bids if determined to be in its best interest. All bids received shall become the property of the Commonwealth Government.

/s/ Edward C. Sablan
NMHC Board Chairman & Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Division of Procurement & Supply

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866/234-9447 / 234-7670 • Fax: 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman of the Board, is hereby giving notice that a Special Board Meeting is scheduled on **Thursday, February 25, 2016 10:00 a.m. at the NMHC's Conference Room, Garapan, Saipan.** The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance.

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
- a. Budget Call 2017

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

(Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

EDWARD C. SABLAN
Chairman of the Board

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-3751/68 Fax: (670) 664-3760

Head Start Policy Council Meeting Agenda

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Thursday, February 25, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. at the Annex Room, Pacific Islands Club, San Antonio, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes
   a. January 9, 2016

II. Public Comments [1]

III. Communication
1. State Board of Education
2. Office of Head Start

IV. Reports
1. Director
2. Program Managers
3. Director of Finance
4. Center Representatives

V. Old Business
1. Community Representatives
   a. Saipan
   b. Rota

VI. New Business
1. Standard Operating Procedures: Health & Safety

VII. Miscellaneous Matters

VIII. Executive Session [2]

IX. Next Meeting

X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Mrs. Candace Q. Celis at (670) 664-3761 or email address at candace.celis@cnmipss.org, several days notice is required.

/s/ **Tina Crisostimo**
Chairperson

[1] Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

CUC hires Orsini as HR manager

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has hired a new human resources manager.

According to CUC acting executive director Gary Camacho, their new HR manager is Andrew Orsini.

Orsini started officially on Tuesday.

He was a former Civil Service Commission executive director and served the grievance division chief of the Office of Personnel Management. He was also a former Northern Marianas College Board of Regents member.

"He's with CUC now and he'll assist in all these matters, with HR matters," Camacho said, "He'll help us out with all our CWs, we're not going to be behind anymore in all our CWs, we're going to be ahead and we're going to try the water with the personnel."

Camacho said having an HR manager will be beneficial to their employees.

"We're pleased to have him on board because the staff development is obviously an issue in the technical industry we're in. CUC is highly technical in a variety of different ways. We need someone who can focus in on our resource, local labor resource, and try to heighten their skill level through a responsible development program," Camacho said.

"It's a void that has been there since Frank Cepeda left and we're filling it and we expect it to be beneficial to the employees," he added.

Cepeda left CUC in July last year. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

UB40 in limbo: will the concert be a go or a no?

Fans of UB40 in Saipan and Guam were upset by a Saturday night social media post from the band that is currently in New Zealand—one of their stops before their supposed concert in the Marianas this weekend.

"Having just arrived in New Zealand for the Ragamuffin Festival following two great shows in Australia it is with regret that the Guam and Saipan dates have been cancelled," UB40 said in their official Facebook page.

The band went on to point the fault to the promoter, Steven Brownstein Entertainment, and that those who purchased tickets should contact them for a refund.

"This is completely out of our control as the appropriate visa's allowing UB40 to perform in these territories will not be ready in time due to the fault of the promoter," UB40 said, "If you have purchased your tickets and require a refund please contact the promoter Steven Brownstein Entertainment."

UB40 added that they hope to "reschedule soon."

In a response, Steven Brownstein Entertainment issued an announcement saying that the statements and accusations are false.

"We at Steven Brownstein Entertainment are fully aware of the public announcement made by the band UB40 via their website and social media. We understand that this announcement has caused a great deal of confusion and we apologize for the inconvenience," SBE said.

"Note that we do not endorse or support the actions and accusations that have been circulating via social media. We understand your concerns but note that these statements and accusations are truly false and we do not appreciate the misrepresentation," it added.

Some backlash from disappointed fans was posted on UB40's post. Others pointed out that two of SBE's events have now been cancelled in a row. Rapper Flo Rida was supposed to hold a concert in Guam and Saipan last month but was postponed until further notice "due to unresolved scheduling issues."

Several concerned fans also posted on SBE's account for confirmation of UB40's announcement.

SBE clarified to the public that they are not in the business to be dishonest to their vendors, sponsors, affiliates. and loyal fans and that they are not in the business to defraud anyone nor do they wish to delay customer refunds under any unfortunate circumstance.

They added that they are "not in the business to spend thousands of dollars promoting an event to then turn around and waste everyone's time."

"For those of you who know us—you will know that behind the scenes all SBE events are personally funded by the man Mr. Brownstein himself and we are proud to bring world-class entertainment to the Marianas," SBE said.

SBE said the concert is not cancelled and that a final update will be announced today.

"We will have an update for all of our fans and customers in the next 24 hours and until then, your usual cooperation and support is greatly appreciated," SBE said. ***(Frauleine Villanueva-Dizon)***

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

PROMOTIONAL & OPEN COMPETITIVE
EXAMINATION ANNOUCEMENT HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE

It is the policy of the State Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School System Human Resources Office shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity. Applications shall be evaluated regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, disability, or national origin.

Applicants for this position must be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

POSITION/TITLE: **JROTC ARMY INSTRUCTOR**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: PSS-2016-004
OPENING DATE: February 8, 2016 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
SALARY: PL – Per Minimum Instructor Pay (MIP); Step(s): Per MIP; Salary: Per MIP
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: **JROTC Program**

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a retired non-commissioned officer under pay grade E-6 to E-9.
- Certified as an Army Instructor by U.S. Army Cadet Command.
- Must have favorable result of current background check.
- Have no personal habits or character traits that are questionable from a security or social standpoint (financial irresponsibility, violation of standard of conduct in accordance with AR 600-50).

POSITION/TITLE: **DIRECTOR OF ARMY INSTRUCTION**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO.: PSS-2016-005
OPENING DATE: February 8, 2016 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
SALARY: PAY LEVEL: UNGRADED STEP: UNGRADED - MIP (Minimum Instructor Pay)
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: **PSS, JROTC PROGRAM**

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Be a retired field grade commissioned officer (Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel) with a minimum of a baccalaureate degree.
- As a matter of policy, personnel retired under Title 10, USC, CHAPTER 1223 (Reserve Service), are not eligible for employment in JROTC Program.
- Be of good moral character and have the mental ability, positive attitude, physical appearance and condition, and neatness required for favorable representation of the program and the Army in the school and civilian community.
- Demonstrate the professional ability to lead, motivate, and influence young men and women to learn and develop leadership, self-reliance and discipline, responsiveness to constituted authority, and attributes of good citizenship and patriotism.
- Have no record of conviction by court martial, no record of time lost-to-be-made-good under Title 10 USC, Section 972 and no record of civil convictions except for minor traffic offenses.
- Exceptions may be granted by the CG, USACC, using AR 601-210 as a guide.
- Have general knowledge of course subject matter and demonstrated instructional ability.
- Meet retention medical fitness standards of AR 40-501 and the initial Army procurement table of weight standards of AR 40-501.
- Possess sufficient medical, physical, and mental fitness, and be willing to perform, participate in, and supervise activities consistent with the conduct of the JROTC program.
- Not have been retired from active duty more than 5 years at the time of initial employment.
- Eligibility may be extended to 6 years for individuals meeting the provision of paragraph 4-9b of Cadet Command Regulation 145-2.

POSITION/TITLE: **SENIOR ARMY INSTRUCTOR**
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: PSS-2016-007
OPENING DATE: February 8, 2016 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled SALARY: PAY LEVEL: UNGRADED STEP: UNGRADED - MIP (Minimum Instructor Pay)
BENEFITS: Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience, plus excellent benefits (including Life Insurance, Retirement Benefits, and Paid Leave/Holidays).
LOCATION: **JROTC PROGRAM**

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Commissioned Officer retired from the U.S. Army, with a Bachelors Degree or higher from a U.S. accredited college or university OR AA degree for Warrant Officer provided employee completes BA degree requirements no later than four (4) years after date of employment.
- Must be certified to Instruct by Cadet Command and have no record of civil conviction.
- Must meet all Instructor accession prerequisites IAW AR 145-2.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS:

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TO THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT CNMI PSS CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, BWUGHOS STREET, SUSUPE.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MUST BE ATTACHED TO APPLICATION FORMS: (1) COPY OF DIPLOMA/DEGREE, (2) TRANSCRIPTS, (3) POLICE CLEARANCE (FROM PLACE OF RESIDENCE FOR PAST SIX MONTHS), (4) VERIFICATION OF EMPLOYMENT LETTER, (5) RESUME, AND (6) TEACHING CERTIFICATE (IF APPLICABLE).

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS AND REQUIRED DOCUMENTS MAY BE SUBMITTED TO THE HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE OR MAILED TO: CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM, ATTN: HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE, CNMI PSS CENTRAL OFFICE BUILDING, FIRST FLOOR, BWUGHOS STREET, SUSUPE, P.O. BOX 501370CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950, TEL. NOS. (670) 237-3052/79/59/31.

YOUR APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE ON OR BEFORE THE CLOSING DATE OF THE POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT.

MVA: Tinian has more to offer

TINIAN—There are more sites to see and things to do on Saipan's island neighbor and that's why the Marianas Visitors Authority has continued to aggressively promote Tinian to the CNMI's target markets. Tinian is also expecting visitor arrivals to gradually increase, especially once the two hotels being constructed finally open.

MVA Tinian field office representative Vida Borja said that their goal is to bring in more foreign visitors with events like last week's annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, which is one way of promoting the island.

"The festival not only showcases local food, products, arts, and crafts but also the talents of the local artists that could equal those in the international scene."

Tinian's proximity to Saipan, the CNMI's largest and most populous island, is also an advantage and it only takes less than 10 minutes to visit the island by plane.

Tinian also boasts of shrines, ruins, prehistoric and other historical sites like the Latte Stones and the airfield where the Enola Gay, which carried the atomic bomb that was dropped on the city of Hiroshima that helped end World War II, took off.

Tinian also has white sand beaches with the pristine water and the marine life around the coral reefs are ideal for snorkeling or scuba diving.

"Tinian has lot to offer. That's why we expect more aggressive promotion. Tourists who had already visited the island are also helping promote the island by word of mouth to their friends" added Borja.

A crew from Japanese public broadcasting network NHK also filmed the festival last week, while XTERRA Saipan regular Kaon Cho also joined the festivities.

"They are our partners in helping promote Tinian and the CNMI. We hope that Kaon Cho would inspire more Koreans to visit us here," said Borja.

Cho joined the Tour de Tinian and Borja said organizers are planning to make it into an international race.

Borja added that they expect car rental companies to also increase their fleet of vehicles to address the transportation issue once Alter City Group and Bridge Investment Group open their hotels. ***(Jon Perez)***

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NMHC EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Amendment No. 2

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

NOTICE OF FUNDING AVAILABILITY OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT FUNDS FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2016

THIS ADVERTISEMENT IS PAID FOR BY NMHC WITH CPD FUNDS.

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) is announcing the availability of an estimated $1,219,232.00 in Community Planning and Development (CPD) funds available from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. NMHC anticipates receiving an estimated amount of $873,837.00 in Community Development Block Grants (CDBG); $278,365.00 in Home Investment Partnerships (HOME); and, $67,030.00 in Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for Program Year (PY) 2016.

The CDBG funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of community development activities to revitalize neighborhoods, provide affordable housing, expand economic opportunities, and improve community facilities and services. However, use of these funds must meet at least one of the national objectives which include: 1) to benefit low and moderate-income families; 2) to eliminate slum or blight conditions; or 3) to meet other urgent community development needs.

The CDBG program requires a grant recipient to certify that it will minimize displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI government does not plan on undertaking any activity which will cause displacement of person. In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG funded activity, the CNMI government will comply with the requirements of the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, its implementing regulation and applicable local law.

HOME funds may be used to create affordable housing through financing assistance, site acquisition or improvement, and rehabilitating existing residential dwellings as well as providing funds for new construction or purchase of a single family residential dwelling. Use of HOME funds must benefit low-income families.

ESG funds may be used to rehabilitate or convert to buildings into homeless shelters and for shelter operating expenses, supportive services and homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities. Use of ESG funds must benefit the homeless.

Applications for the use of CPD funds are available for pick up at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) located in Garapan, Saipan; San Jose Village, Tinian; and, Songsong Village, Rota, beginning December 21, 2015. You may also obtain the application via our website at www.nmhcgov.net.

Applications must be submitted to the NMHC Offices in Garapan, Saipan (Saipan Residents); San Jose, Tinian (Tinian Residents); and, Songsong Village, Rota (Rota Residents) by ~~***Friday, March 25, 2016***~~ ***Monday, March 28, 2016, no later than 4:30 p.m. Applications submitted after*** ~~***March 25, 2016***~~ ***March 28, 2016, will not be accepted.***
(note: March 25, 2016 is a CNMI Holiday)

A briefing will be conducted for interested applicants and for those applicants who have picked up an application for the use of CPD funds. The briefing will address the program requirements and regulations concerning the usage of CPD funds.

The schedules for briefing are as follows:

- ***Saipan: February 16, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Conference Room located in Garapan, Saipan.***
- ***Tinian: February 17, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the NMHC Field Office located in San Jose, Tinian.***
- ***Rota: February 19, 2016, 6:00 p.m. at the Mayor's Office Conference Room located in Tatachog, Rota.***

We are encouraging all non-profit, for profit, and government service providers who are providing services to people with disabilities, homeless individuals, and emergency shelter administrators and operators to attend this briefing.

Accommodations for disabled individuals or other non-English speaking individuals who wish to attend the briefing are available upon request by giving at least 24 hours notice prior to the meeting so that such needs can be arranged and provided. Additional inquiries, concerning the CPD program, may be directed to Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director or Mr. Jacob Muna, Planner/Environmental Officer at 234-7689 or 234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Cadets of Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School pose for a photo after being declared overall winners for the unarmed category of the CNMI Public School System Drill Meet.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the Saipan Southern High School JROTC Manta Ray Battalion pose for a photo after being hailed as this year's overall champion for the armed category of last Saturday's Drill Meet.

RHI and SSHS dominate CNMI-PSS Drill Meet

By THOMAS MANGLONA II
CORRESPONDENT

Rota's Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr. High School and Saipan Southern High School cadets dominated the unarmed and armed categories, respectively, of the annual CNMI-PSS JROTC Drill Meet at Marianas High School last Saturday.

The Chamorro Buck Battalion and Manta Ray Battalion now prepare to represent the islands and compete against over 50 other teams at the National Drill Meet in Torrance, California.

Drill Meet Coordinator Command Sergeant Major Richard Basa told *Saipan Tribune* that 16 cadets from the winning teams will travel to the mainland in April accompanied by their JROTC instructors to compete in their respective categories.

Last year's unarmed champions Tinian Jr./Sr. High School placed first in the Color Guard subcategory and competed alongside Marianas High School and Kagman High School as well.

The CNMI's public schools competed in unarmed and armed drills comprised of inspection, color guard, platoon regulation, and exhibition drills.

"This means everything to us. For the past six months we have been practicing," Rota Battalion Commander George Bisala said. "We went through many challenges but managed to pull through."

First-year SSHS Cadet Second Lieutenant Collins Flores described the preparation for the tilt as "hell," but felt relieved that "we finally did it through months of practice."

Tinian Battalion Commander Jemima Cruz said that the performance level at the meet was "not what we expected." She added, "We have not done it in a few years, but it was a great turnout overall."

Basa explained that the primary aim of the drill meet is to develop good character and discipline in the students.

"When they are out there the kids become leaders in that formation. They have experience and leadership while they are doing the drills," he said.

Yvonne R. Pangelinan, associate commissioner for Student & Support Services, lauded the cadets and their instructors for their hard work and dedication.

"Everybody put their heart and soul our there," she said. "The kids really dug deep and put everything they had in the competition."

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Don't allow fear to erode privacy rights

The horrific terrorist shooting at the Inland Regional Center in San Bernardino, Calif., shook all of us. But tragedy should not provide an automatic mandate for government to encroach upon the public's civil liberties.

On Tuesday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Sheri Pym ordered Apple to provide "reasonable technical assistance" to the FBI to help "bypass or disable" a security function on the iPhone of one of the shooters. Apple, to its credit, has made it clear it will fight this order.

Law enforcement officials have been unable to access data on the shooter's phone and hope to disable an iPhone security feature that automatically erases data after a certain number of incorrect password attempts. This would allow law enforcement to run software that would try myriad passwords until the correct one is found.

It may be tempting to think that this case is so exceptional that it requires extraordinary cooperation from Apple. Further, such cooperation ultimately would be innocuous to everyone else. After all, any workaround developed to help the FBI crack the shooter's password would only be used in this case, right?

Wrong.

"Once created, the technique could be used over and over again, on any number of devices," Apple CEO Tim Cook explained in a message to Apple customers. "In the physical world, it would be the equivalent of a master key, capable of opening hundreds of millions of locks — from restaurants and banks to stores and homes. No reasonable person would find that acceptable."

While it may seem harmless for a company like Apple to just cooperate and help the FBI crack a phone, there is a wide range of repercussions that need to be considered. To date, governments have shown few reasons for confidence in their ability to respect electronic privacy and security.

And, just as it would be wrongheaded and immoral to rush into blanket gun control laws or immigration restrictions in response to the massacre in San Bernardino, it, too, is wrong to exploit a tragedy to undermine electronic security.

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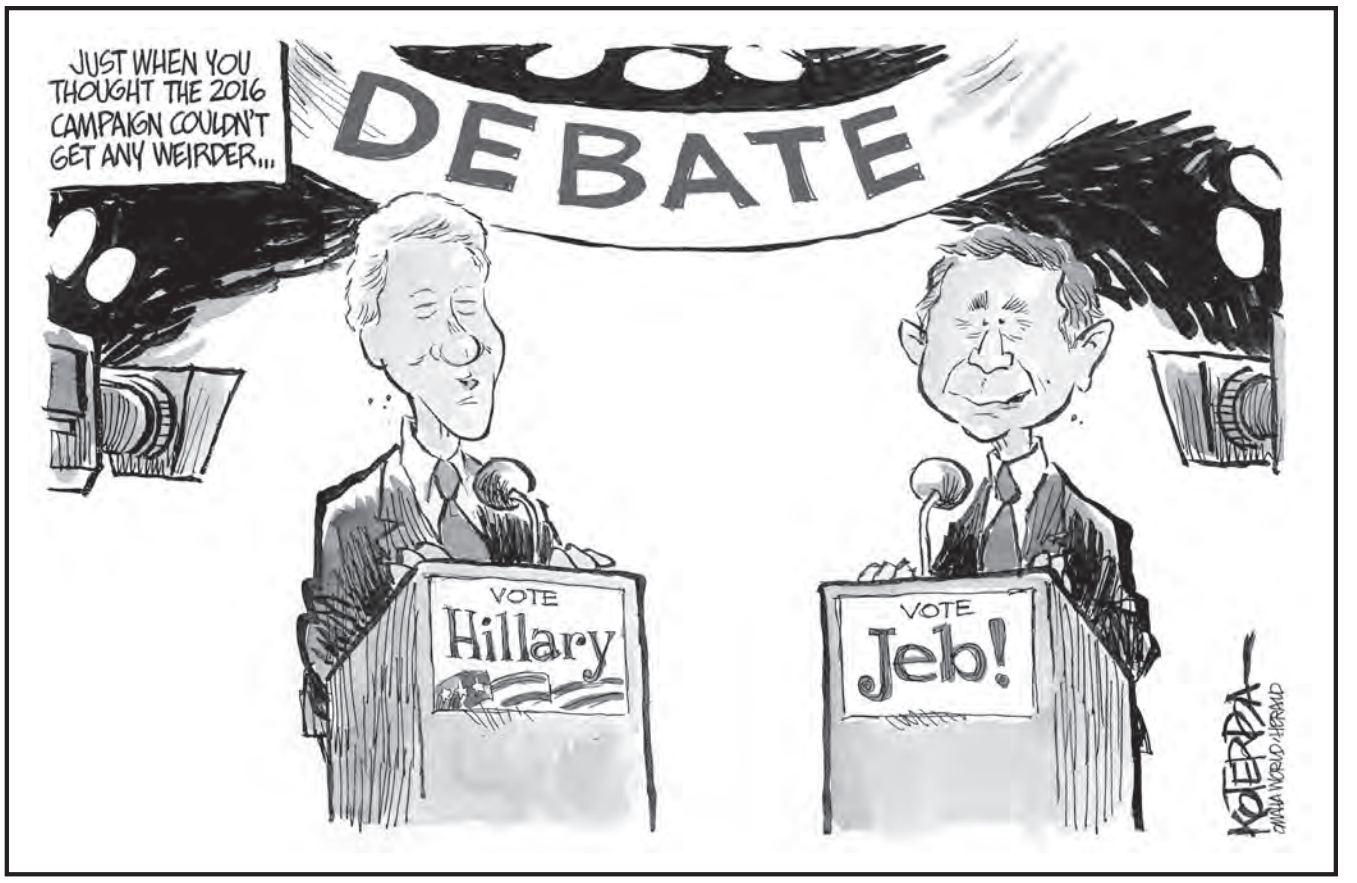


Nuku'alofa

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime Vergara previously taught at SVES in the CNMI. A peripatetic pedagogue, he last taught in China but makes Honolulu, Shenyang, and Saipan home. He can be reached at pinoypanda2031@aol.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.

CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG Torres justified the trip when he joined heads of State in Fiji and brought CUC folks to look at utilities. Fair enough. That focused us to the Pacific south of the Equator. I recalled a lyric and a tune.

"Si'i matangi kuo ma'ilinoa
Kataloto taukei ne 'iloa
To'onga o loto Nuku'alofa
'Uta'anga sia fine Leiola"

Tina in China is from Tonga. I chanced on her tutoring students at the library foyer of SAU in Liaoning while I was trying to locate the office of the librarian. She looked like one who could give directions in English.

When I found out that she was Tongan ("cousins" to the Samoans who were exiled in Saipan during the German occupation), the above song immediately flashed into my brain cells and I was back to the early '80s when I taught a Human Development course in the island of Tongatapu, the largest and most populated one among the three island groups that include Vava'u and Ha'apai.

I remembered it well because a section of the island protected bats, a delicacy reserved for the nobility, similar to the bat-eating tradition I know practiced also in the Marianas. The winged creatures immediately triggered recollection of Tonga and the song.

Tina was engaged in geometric designs as part of the engineering course she was taking when I got the urge to let her know there was another in the building who could carry a Tongan tune, so I went over and sang her the song. That was December 2015. I came back to Saipan first week of January and I got an email from her. She remembered my intrusion and my song.

The world has really grown smaller. Tonga reminds me of the 72 Samoans exiled in Saipan in the late 19th century including 10 chiefs and their relatives and servants, compliments of German governor Wilhelm Solf. The natives were involved in Mau a Pule to reinstate traditional Samoan practices abolished by the German colonial regime in the late 19th century. The Germans thought it not only rebellious, but it ran against the assumption that anything European was better than anything anyone anywhere can offer!

Humanities executive director Scott Russell is seeking historical documents to this part of forgotten Marianas history. The exiles included a native orator, Lauaki Namulau'ulu but unable to get the support of other Samoans vis-a-vis the Germans, they were exiled into "faraway" Saipan.

While living in Majuro of the Marshall Islands in the early '80s, I visited Apia of Samoa and a village on the other side of the island, as well as Pago-Pago of the American sector, on my way to and from Tongatapu where the capital Nuku'alofa is located with half of the nation's population. It is home to a constitutional monarchy that rules over 170 islands of the Kingdom of Tonga, which never lost sovereignty to any foreign power, even to the British and the Germans in the neighborhood.

The story of Captain Cook after his first visit in 1773 is familiar. He arrived during a fruit festival when he was cordially welcomed and fed well, escaping the roast stick Tongan chiefs cannibalistically desired to have him and his crew for dinner (an aside, the Caribbean was named after folks who ate humans, a variant of the word Cabires) but failed to agree on a plan. Cook never knew he was main course for dinner; he felt so welcomed that he called the place, Friendly Isles.

To run into someone from Tonga in the northeast of China was serendipitous. I slipped a calling card to our lass from the southernmost islands of Polynesia (Tonga literally means, south) of the South Pacific, thus, the email.

Having been inured to the mystique of Polynesia, my two-months sojourn in Tonga was delightful, especially since 90 percent of the whole population are by NIH standard overweight, and the word "obese" applied to more than half of the island folks used liberally without apology. The cassava, sweet potatoes, and taro were abundant enough to ensure the high carbohydrate intake, mixed with pork with poultry and caught fish, eating was indulging at the time. Folks to a party expect to return home with a heaping plate of food prepared even before guests get there.

Half of the economy came from outward remittances, where folks identified as Tongans live, so the other half back home received the dole, worked the land owned by the monarchy and their peons, but they knew how to live it up in spite of the minimal incentive to be productive.

Sitting on mats on the floor, clapping, singing, and swaying while the food is ladled and the pacifying kava juice was passed around, took the whole afternoon after the worship service at the Free Wesleyan Church where the royal seat was higher than the Pastor's at the pulpit.

So Tina in China came as a very pleasant surprise, and though my visit to Tonga was more than 30 years ago, the memories of the languid Sundays and the Si'i matangi song came rushing back to memory. I was only too happy to vocalize the song I had not sang for a long, long while.

Ah, we are growing old. We recall old days vividly, but miss or are late for yesterday's appointments! Talofa! Kava cheers!

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Don't be cold-hearted: Let dogs inside

By LINDSAY POLLARD-POST
People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals

Lindsay Pollard-Post is a senior writer for the PETA Foundation, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510; www.PETA.org. Information about PETA's funding may be found at www.peta.org/about/numbers.asp

It's so cold in many parts of the country that car batteries are calling it quits, streets have been transformed into skating rinks because road salt isn't working and exposed skin can become frostbitten in a matter of minutes. Yet countless dogs—domesticated animals who are suited to curling up in armchairs, not enduring Arctic temperatures—are left outside in this bone-chilling cold 24/7, on chains or in backyard pens. And not all of them will survive.

Every winter, dogs who are left outdoors freeze to death; suffer from frostbitten ears, toes and tails; and die of dehydration or starvation—often while the people who left them out there are just a few steps away inside a cozy, warm house.

> *Companionship means everything to dogs—they are social animals who want and need to be with their human "pack," have their chins scratched, hear the words "Good dog!" and be loved unconditionally, as they love us.*

Rita was one of those dogs. A police officer reportedly found her dead on Valentine's Day 2014 inside a pen in Madison, Ill., that was partially covered with snow and strewn with feces. Her food and water were frozen, there was blood in the pen, her ribs were protruding and she was chained, preventing her from reaching her doghouse. A neighbor testified that she was so concerned about Rita that she had rigged up a system to lower buckets of food and water to the dog and tossed straw into the pen in an attempt to give her some warmth.

Last month, a puppy was found frozen to death inside a plastic igloo-shaped doghouse in Atlantic County, N.J., after being left outside in dangerously cold temperatures. Another dog, possibly the puppy's mother, who was also left outside, was severely malnourished and died after being rushed to a veterinarian. Both dogs' water bowls were frozen solid.

Dogs' fur doesn't provide them with adequate protection from freezing temperatures and biting wind, especially the short fur of dogs like pit bulls, pointers, beagles, Rottweilers and Doberman pinschers. Puppies and elderly dogs are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures, and older dogs who have spent many winters outside endure the added misery of aching, arthritic joints.

Many dogs who are chained or penned "out of sight, out of mind" in backyards are deprived of adequate and legally required shelter. They spend the winter shivering in drafty, overturned plastic barrels or huddling under haphazard lean-tos constructed out of old mattresses, rusty car parts or whatever else is lying around the yard. PETA's fieldworkers routinely deliver sturdy, straw-filled doghouses to dogs who are forced to live like this. A doghouse is no substitute for a warm, loving home, but for these neglected animals, proper shelter often means the difference between life and a painful death.

But the coldest thing that chained and penned dogs have to endure isn't the temperature—it's their owners' indifference. Companionship means everything to dogs—they are social animals who want and need to be with their human "pack," have their chins scratched, hear the words "Good dog!" and be loved unconditionally, as they love us. They need to exercise their bodies and minds with long walks, games of fetch and new sights, sounds and smells to explore. Stuck in the backyard like snow shovels, dogs get none of these things that make their lives worth living.

If you have dogs living outside, warm their hearts—and yours—let them inside. If there are chained or penned dogs in your neighborhood, make sure they have proper food, water and shelter—and notify authorities immediately if they don't or if their lives are in danger. And urge their owners to welcome them inside to be with the rest of the family. There is nothing colder than leaving man's best friend out in the snow.

My transgender daughter should not have to use the men's restroom

By TUCKER FITZGERALD
The Seattle Times

Tucker FitzGerald is a Seattle father, husband and graphic designer. He has been involved with the Gender Diversity family support group for three years.

My daughter is in kindergarten. She's 6. She loves unicorns and mermaids and soccer. And I'm concerned about my community forcing her to share the restroom with men.

Currently she uses the girls' restroom. But some Washington state legislators want her in the men's room—because she was born with a penis.

It feels uncomfortable writing about my child's genitals. But I'm not sure how else to protect her.

And I know I've already lost some readers. People have lots of assumptions about a transgender child and their parents. Maybe radical lesbian feminists conducting gender experiments?

But the truth is that I tried to raise my daughter as a boy. Complete with blue walls and Tyrannosaurus rex pajamas. I gave her my father's name. Took her to church on Sundays. Her siblings have had no trouble with the genders assigned them. But it just didn't work for her.

When I realized my child would only wear dresses and wanted to grow up to be a princess, I tracked down a support group for parents of gender-nonconforming kids. It turns out there's a lot of them. And the parents aren't who I imagined. Democrats and Republicans. Muslims and Catholics. Grandparents raising grandkids. Yes, there's a lesbian or two in the mix, but even they are baffled about how this happened. All these parents were scared and confused at first.

I also talked to my pediatrician and read national psychological and medical associations' positions. If my child was having mental-health problems, I wanted to help.

They all agreed: I need to let her be herself. If I love and support her, as a girl, she'll be happy and healthy. But if I try to force her to be a boy, she would be in a very high suicide risk category.

So when confronted with trusting her heart and mind, or trusting her genitals, I choose her heart and mind. There was no rational choice other than to support her as a girl.

And, of course, I want her safe from predators. I learned that transgender people are at extreme risk for sexual and physical violence. The Southern Poverty Law Center recently declared transgender women the most victimized group in the nation. Victims, not predators.

Examples of a transgender person, or a man pretending to be transgender, assaulting someone in a bathroom are rare. The Human Rights Campaign and the American Civil Liberties Union have pointed out that there are no documented cases in the United States.

I have a 6-year-old. The proposed laws would require her to use the men's room. The scenario they're drumming up fear with—impersonators or actual transgender women assaulting women in bathrooms—is conjecture at best.

These proposed bathroom restrictions make little sense. For starters, transgender people live among us and currently pee. They aren't hurting anyone.

And consider that while some transgender people may appear transgender, many don't—for example models Geena Rocero or Ben Melzer. So, when transgender people use the restroom consistent with their identity, people who look like women use the women's room. But if we require genital-based restrictions, we would be sending transgender men, with beards and biceps, into the women's restroom.

So, if a man eventually does decide to assault women by being deceptive about gender identity, genital-based restroom laws would ironically make it easier for him. If transgender women use the women's restroom, he would have to dress up like a woman to enter. Under the proposed system, all he has to do is claim he's a transgender man to walk into the women's restroom. No dressing up required.

And lastly, who is going to do the genital inspections?

This is an easy issue to distort to make Democrats look ridiculous: "They want to send men into your daughter's locker room!" But that fear mongering comes at a heavy price to some of the most vulnerable members of our communities.

Please do pass and enforce laws that aggressively confront sexual harassment and assault. But don't send my daughter into the men's room in the process. She's not a threat to anyone.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Question of journalistic honesty

The article in your Friday, Feb. 19, 2016 issue on "Torres in DC to Attend Dinner with Obama" published as a press release from the Governor's Office and may have been issued and made public by the Press Secretary.

The information in this press release, sad to say, consisted of protected written intellectual property that were copied verbatim out of a copyright and all rights reserved source of the National Governors Association mission statement. Whoever in the Governor's Office that made this a public domain documented publication as if it was its own written undertaking may have committed plagiarism.

If this was the work of the Press Secretary of the Governor's Office, it makes that office look very unprofessional and lacking respect and journalistic honesty of copyright intellectual materials that follows certain protocols when using in one's public domain published information. The worst part in this article consisted of quotation in which the author made it appear as the governor's statement when in fact it came verbatim from the source owned by the National Governor's Association per its copyright protected written intellectual property.

For your information, the second sentence of the second paragraph, the entire fourth paragraph copied verbatim, and the entire fifth paragraph was problematic. The fifth paragraph appeared as a quote of the governor's statement when it was not. This was no less accidental than peculiarly intentional to mask a message from its truthful purpose and public interest. The ambiguous and double talk nature of what the press release made it so obvious that the author may be fishing for words and tinkering thought he does not know about. Honesty is a question of right and wrong, not a matter of policy.

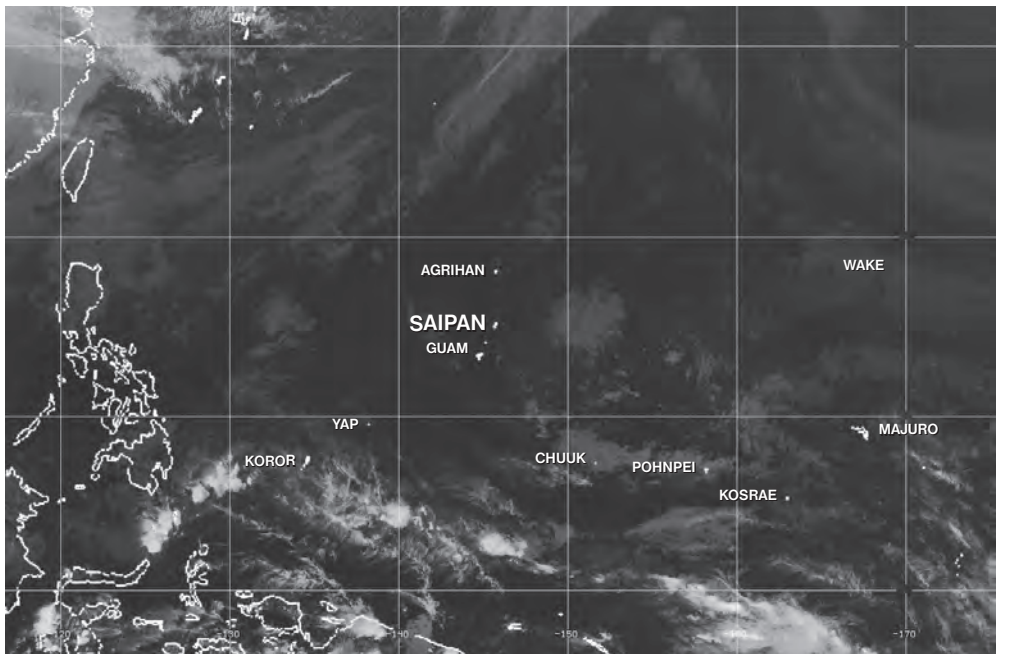
Francisco R. Agulto
Kanat Tabla

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲86° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:22 PM, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2016
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from north of Iwo To island through 25N141E to southeast of Okinawa at 20N135E then continues as a shear line to beyond 130E at 17N. Cloudiness and widespread rain are found along and northwest of the front to beyond 25N. Patchy clouds and scattered showers are seen along and up to 300 miles northwest of the shear line. Converging surface winds southeast of the front are causing scattered showers near Iwo To island within 80 miles of a line from 21N139E to 25N142E. A near-equatorial trough runs east-southeastward from near north Maluku through 3N130E to end at EQ145W. Scattered showers and few thunderstorms are occurring north of this feature from south of Koror to southwest of Chuuk within 65 miles of a line from 6N130E to 6N136E to 3N148E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia

Guam And Rota	Showers	▲83	▼76
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼76
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲83	▼80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲79	▼65
Beijing	Windy	▲49	▼24
Hong Kong	Mostly Cloudy	▲68	▼62
Honolulu	Showers	▲80	▼65
London	Showers	▲51	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲78	▼53
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲91	▼72
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼66
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲77	▼67
New York	Mostly Cloudy	▲53	▼37
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼40
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼47
Pusan	Cloudy	▲49	▼34
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲66	▼52
Salem	Rain	▲52	▼36
San Francisco	Sunny	▲64	▼51
Seoul	Cloudy	▲41	▼31
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	▲51	▼39
Washington, DC	Rain	▲56	▼39

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.2 Feet
8:14 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
2:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.9 Feet
7:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Tuesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Wednesday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Thursday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:58 PM	5:59 AM
Tuesday	6:48 PM	6:41 AM
Wednesday	7:36 PM	7:21 AM
Thursday	8:23 PM	8:01 AM
Friday	9:10 PM	8:39 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 24, 2016

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA2924	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA2922	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA2921	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA2920	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA2928	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA2926	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA2921	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA2921	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ628	3:50am	7:40am	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:20am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

MU7162	5:10am	08:00am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA2924/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM
UA2924/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA2922/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA2922/193	8:40am	11:10pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA2921/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA2920/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA2920/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR
UA2926/191	9:50pm	7:20am+1	1, 6 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ628/721	3:50am	12:50am	Daily via ICN
UA2922/159	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA2921/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA2920/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA2923	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA2925	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA2921	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA2920	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA2927	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA2929	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA2920	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA2920	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:35am	3:10pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ627	9:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6, 7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

MU7161	10:00 pm	5:30am	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/2929	9:55am	9:20pm	2, 6, 7 via GUM
UA190/2929	10:00am	9:20pm	3 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ702/627	12:30pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
PR110/UA2925	10:05pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/2920	10:20pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/2925	11:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2920	11:59pm	1:50pm+1	2, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA184/2927	11:59pm	5:35pm+1	2, 5 via GUM
UA184/2929	11:59pm	9:20pm+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ724/627	2:20pm	2:50am+1	Daily via ICN
UA116/2925	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2921	10:55pm	1:00pm+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA116/2920	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota
UA116/2927	10:55pm	5:35pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
UA116/2929	10:55pm	9:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; 7C: Jeju AirETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

Canarejo is 2016 Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Clarice Mhae Canarejo showed the confidence and poise the judges were looking for, and was crowned the 2016 Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy at a packed Royal Taga Hall of the Saipan World Resort last Saturday.

"I'm happy and grateful for this win. I thank God for giving me this blessing. I also thank all of my friends for their support," said Canarejo, who now joins previous winners Angel Malasarate (2012) and Melody Johnson (2013). Juliet Inocencio was the 2014 Miss Little Pusong Pinoy.

The nursing student at Northern Marianas College, whose parents Federico and Cecille hail from Bulacan province in the Philippines, also credited her experience of joining beauty pageants in the Philippines as her advantage over the 13 other candidates.

Canarejo, who won $800, also got the most number of votes from 20 randomly selected individuals who picked the Miss Photogenic award. She was also the Star of the Night.

"Helping my family is my priority after I finish nursing. I would also pursue my own dreams. If given a chance and with my parents' approval, I would love to join the Binibining Pilipinas."

Rhine Jaydel Russel was the first runner-up and won $500, while Erica Faye Tubera won $300 for being the second runner-up. Russel was also named Miss Congeniality and earned the Best in Talent with her lively ballroom dance.

Angela Barbo showed the enthusiasm and energy to earn the Spirit Award, Adonna Mari Matutino was the Miss Charity awardee after being the candidate who helped the organizers with their fundraising efforts, while Chloe Hazel Ann Salvosa, who wowed the crowd with her magic tricks, owned the catwalk with the Best in Evening Gown award.

Pageant director Ernie Molina said the organizers and the United Filipino Organization were overwhelmed with the support shown by the community.

"All the candidates did a good job. It was another packed audience at the World Resort. Thank you to all who helped us organize the event and to all of those who came to watch and cheered for their bets," said Molina.

Mary Angela Cabrera, Catherine Kate Castro, Janelle S. Lavetoria, Queen Anne Lopez, Mazie Anne A. Manalang, Mary Lenor Sablan, and twins Michaella Serrano and Mikamaika Serrano were the other candidates.

Philip Canuto, Roxanne Diaz, 2003 Miss CNMI World Kimberly Reyes, 2011 Miss CNMI International Rowina Torres, and Ulysses Sabuco are the judges. Reigning Miss Marianas Jian Joyner also graced the event and she helped crown Canajero.

IT&E, TSL Foundation, Genoveva's Hair Power, T-Galleria, Elegance Café, and Western Union were the sponsors of the show.

PHOTOS BY JON PEREZ

Queen Anne Lopez performs a Tahitian dance in the talent portion of the 2016 Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy held last Saturday night at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Miss Teen Pusong Pinoy Clarice Mhae Canarejo, center, is flanked by first runner-up Rhine Jaydel Russell, and second runner-up Erica Faye Tubera, right.

Catherine Kate Castro had a lively dance performance.

Rhine Jaydel Russell was named the Best in Talent with a ballroom dance performance.

Mary Lenor Sablan during the evening gown competition.

Mary Angelica Cabrera strikes a pose in the evening gown portion.

Adonna Mari Matutino, left, receives the Miss Charity award from TSL Foundation executive director Merlie Tolentino.

Miss Marianas 2015 Jian Joyner was among the special guests that evening.

The candidates await the announcement of the winners.

Chloe Hazel Anne Salvosa wows the crowd with her magic trials.

THE POWER OF GIVING BACK

BSI's Corporate Social Responsibility encourages involvement

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. continues to distinguish itself as a company that embraces corporate social responsibility as a primary vehicle to encourage involvement among its employees.

For BSI employees, their involvement with the company's Corporate Social Responsibility department builds a collaborative and inspired team.

It also provides opportunities which leads to fulfillment.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Best Sunshine International, Ltd. Corporate Social Responsibility members team up to serve the community. From left, Malcolm Omar, Erica Tenorio, Antoinette Kaipat, and John Brel.

From homemaker to community delegate

CSR representative Antoinette Kaipat's story is not only about being able to provide a better life for herself and her family but an opportunity to give back to the community.

A devoted companion and loving mother, Kaipat was a stay-at-home mom manning down the house while her partner provided for the family outside the home. This was before being hired to work for BSI's CSR team.

"Before Best Sunshine, I was a stay-at-home mom and I felt bad for my partner that he had to work extra hard just to get us through the week," explained Kaipat. "I started working for CSR to help him out and also to help my mom since we're staying with her."

As she searched for a potential job, she was more than happy to accept the offer from Best Sunshine to be a part of its Corporate Social Responsibility team.

"I have three beautiful girls, the oldest is 14, middle is 12, and the youngest is 4. My kids helped me see what life really is. When I look at them, I want a better life for them," said Kaipat.

Kaipat started working as a CSR representative last December and has been enjoying every moment since then. Not only is she able to provide for her family financially, she is also one of the many CSR teammates responsible for maintaining the beauty of the CNMI through community outreach.

Best Sunshine's CSR team has played a very active role in maintaining the beauty of our island through community service. As a CSR representative, Kaipat is always out on the field working alongside her colleagues repairing, restoring, repainting, and rebuilding various locations in need of improvement.

When asked what she enjoys most about working with the Best Sunshine CSR team, she explains how she was able to quickly develop a tightknit relationship with them. The Best Sunshine CSR team spends various hours throughout the week together completing one project and the next.

"I was a very shy person and I never liked to mingle, but now, I really opened up. It really surprised my family because I was never like this before," explained Kaipat. "I feel like my team isn't just a group of colleagues, but my brothers and sisters. Our bond is so close that we can sit and joke about silly things, but when it's time to be serious, we get the job done."

"It's been a great opportunity to go out and help everybody make our island a better place," added Kaipat. "I really enjoy giving back to the community and showing people that the Best Sunshine CSR team is here for them, not just for us or the company."

Self-reliance and independence

Like Kaipat, Erica Tenorio is also a CSR representative at BSI and spends a lot of her time on the field doing community outreach.

Known to be outspoken, energetic, and a feisty young woman, Tenorio shares how she overcame her struggle being a single mother while at the same time being dedicated to beautifying the islands.

Before accepting her current position at Best Sunshine, she was trying to make ends meet to provide for her two sons and her mother, who she currently resides with.

"It's very hard playing the role of mom and dad. I mean, the mom side is easy; but the dad's side is a struggle," said Tenorio. "Working for CSR is rewarding because it really provides the support I need to care for my kids."

While working at her last job, Tenorio felt like something was missing and yearned for something more out of her career. She made the decision to start looking for a job that would satisfy her interest in working outdoors. Being very full of energy, she wanted a job that didn't restrain her to a desk all day.

"I chose Best Sunshine because the job is focused more on what I'm interested in, which is being outdoors," explained Tenorio. "I also took the job to be able to give my kids what I never had growing up, which is not having to say no whenever they ask for something."

Tenorio explained how her children have brought so much joy into her life and how she made it a goal to provide for them the best way she could. She has already began achieving this goal by accepting a job that not only sufficiently pays the bills, but also, allows her children to live comfortably.

"Since I love doing outdoor work, it really works out because what we do in CSR is work in the community outreach. It feels good to go into a village and make the village a better place for tourists as well as others to see," said Tenorio.

When asked what her favorite community outreach experience has been, she replies that she really loves helping out at the Man'amko Center.

"My favorite experience was the Man'amko Prom because we were able to give them a new opportunity and experience after all they've been through since Typhoon Soudelor," stated Tenorio. "Their faces were so surprised and it was a great feeling knowing we did something good."

Like everyone in CSR, she has established a close relationship with her coworkers and finds comfort in knowing that they are all like one big family. She states, "It's nice that we're very family oriented not only in our homes, but also here at work. That's one thing that's hard to find in a job. I appreciate that we do all the work together and that's what I appreciate about working in this department."

Tenorio adds, "Thank you Best Sunshine and this department for giving me the opportunity to go out into the community and give back. It has been a really great experience."

'A better CNMI'

BSI representative Malcolm Omar explains how BSI believed in him and gave him the opportunity to help the community and his family.

One of the greatest challenges that he had to overcome was moving to the mainland himself. "It was a very big challenge for me, but I did it. I was staying in Washington all by myself for five years," stated Omar.

Prior to his employment at BSI, Omar spent his days as an active member of the Talabwogh Stars Association, a faith-based, non-profit group in Tanapag. He was also employed at the Hyatt Regency Saipan as a night auditor.

"One of my greatest accomplishments was being the president and one of the founders of the Talabwogh Stars Association (TSA). The program is dedicated to community outreach work, especially with the youth. We emphasize on substance abuse, education, and prevention," explained Omar. "I was employed at Hyatt as a night auditor. Working the graveyard shift was fine for me so I can have more time with TSA."

When offered the job at CSR, Omar was more than happy to accept the offer because it was within the scope of work that he was interested in. He loves helping his people and giving back to the community and he knew that with this job, he would be doing just that.

One of the things that Omar is grateful for that BSI has offered him is the opportunity to work with an amazing team. Despite the difference in background, all of them had the same goal, which is to make the CNMI a better place.

"I love working with the people here. We're very diverse. We all have our own special skills to bring to the table. At first I was a little leery with Best Sunshine because of the negative hearsay that was being passed around in the public, but now that I am employed here, I see firsthand what the company is actually about. They have the same vision as me, which is to promote our islands and provide a better CNMI for our people because we deserve it," explained Omar. "We're all homegrown in CSR and it's great to get to know each other. Thank you Best Sunshine for allowing me to meet all these awesome people and expanding my network."

Growth and responsibility

Also a Best Sunshine corporate social responsibility coordinator, John Brel shares how he didn't just find a job that he loves but also a job that gives back to his community and family.

Brel is a physical, adventurous, and creative individual. His most recent job was at Aquasmith as a spearfishing/diving instructor. He enjoyed it, but after some time he realized that there was no room for growth and so he ceased his employment there. At the time, he felt that he didn't need a job. After a while of being unemployed, he was motivated to search for a job when he found out he was going to be a father.

He finally found his niche in the Best Sunshine's CSR Department, where at first he was part of the logistics team, then later promoted to the coordinator position.

"I wasn't working for a while, but when I found out I was having a kid, I knew I had to change and start working to take care of my child," stated Brel. "When I first started here in CSR, I was in logistics, bringing in all the equipment to the sites. After working hard, helping out, and leading certain projects, the team felt that I could fill the coordinator position so they offered it to me. I was excited to take on the offer, especially because at my last job, there wasn't any room to grow and I held the same position the entire time I was employed there. Nonetheless, I feel like my job at Aquasmith prepared me for my job here at CSR. If anything, it made me appreciate Best Sunshine more."

Brel embraces the fact that CSR is about outreach and community work. He is glad that he is not only given the opportunity to develop a strong relationship with his coworkers, but also with the whole community.

"I really like CSR because it's all about outreach and helping the community. There's a big sense of accomplishment after finishing a project, especially when people in the community show how appreciative they are toward the work we've done. The team has grown since last October and I think the bigger it gets, the better we can help Saipan," explained Brel. "We've gotten really close and have developed a special bond with each other not only in our office, but also in our outreach program."

"I want to thank Best Sunshine for dedicating a whole department toward aiding the people of the community. I'm always happy to start a new project because I know in some way, it helps me, it helps my family and it helps the whole island. My favorite experience was when my team was working on the fencing of Oleai Elementary School and a bunch of students came out and thanked us. That is something I know I will never forget." ***(PR)***

Business

Britain's future, migrant split reveal growing EU divide

BRUSSELS (AP)—Britain is thinking of leaving. Greece feels isolated. Austria and Denmark are pushing controversial measures for coping with asylum-seekers despite what their neighbors think.

Tensions between European Union leaders at this week's summit in Brussels have highlighted a gnawing lack of confidence that the bloc of 28 nations can provide timely answers to Europe's challenges.

Rarely has the EU seemed as fragmented and impotent as on Friday, when leaders grappled with a possible British exit and tried to find a united response to the refugee emergency.

"The fact that every policy being discussed is strongly contested is fueling doubts as to whether the EU and its members will be able to match their rhetoric with concrete actions by cooperating more closely," Janis Emmanouilidis at the European Policy Centre think-tank wrote in an analysis.

Still barely recovering from an economic crisis that rivalled the Great Depression, Europe is now struggling with its biggest refugee crisis in well over half a century.

The arrival of more than 1 million people fleeing conflict or poverty for better lives in a far wealthier Europe has overwhelmed border authorities and reception capacities. It has stoked unfounded fears of a threat to Europe's cultural identity and even religion, the arrival of extremism or the theft of jobs.

As tens of thousands of people have packed into trains or hiked Europe's highways north from Greece toward their dream of having a home in Germany or Sweden, nations have erected fences or tightened border controls unilaterally, putting pressure on their EU partners.

The Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia are working together, pushing for a clampdown on borders along the main migrant transit route through the Balkans.

And even nations like Austria and Denmark are out of step with other EU nations.

Austria has surprised its partners by putting a cap on the number of asylum-seekers it will let in, a move the EU's Executive Commission maintains breaks European and international law. Denmark, meanwhile, has moved to take away some assets from asylum-seekers to help pay for their accommodations and food.

US would let Apple keep software to help FBI hack iPhone

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obama administration has told a U.S. magistrate judge it would be willing to allow Apple Inc. to retain possession of and later destroy specialized software it has been ordered to design to help the FBI hack into an encrypted iPhone used by the gunman in December's mass shootings in California.

The government made clear that it was open to less intrusive options in a new legal filing intended to blunt public criticism by Apple's chief executive, Tim Cook, who said the software would be "too dangerous to create" because it would threaten the digital privacy of millions of iPhone customers worldwide.

"Apple may maintain custody of the software, destroy it after its purpose under the order has been served, refuse to disseminate it outside of Apple and make clear to the world that it does not apply to other devices or users without lawful court orders," the Justice Department told Judge Sheri Pym on Friday. "No one outside Apple would have access to the software required by the order unless Apple itself chose to share it."

Meanwhile, the legal fight continued to reverberate on the presidential campaign trail as Republican candidate Donald Trump called on Americans to boycott Apple until it complies with the court order.

Trump made the comment during a question-and-answer session in Pawleys Island, South Carolina, where he's campaigning ahead of Saturday's first-in-the-South Republican presidential primary. Trump says Cook wants to prove "how liberal he is" and told the crowd to "boycott Apple until such time as they give up that security."

In the latest volley between the federal government and one of the world's most respected companies, the Justice Department argued that Apple has the technical ability to comply with a court order issued this week—but won't do so because of its marketing strategy.

"Apple has attempted to design and market its products to allow technology, rather than the law, to control access to data which has been found by this court to be warranted for an important investigation," the filing states.

The Justice Department's motion, which seeks to force Apple to comply with Pym's order, appears aimed at rebutting some of the key objections of Apple and its supporters. It says that the software the government seeks, contrary to Apple's assertions, is not akin to a "master key, capable of opening hundreds of millions of locks." And it also rejects the idea that the court order placed an unreasonable burden on the company, saying Apple already has the technical wherewithal to satisfy it.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

6 held in Spain court probe into China's ICBC bank in Madrid

MADRID (AP)—A Spanish judge has ruled that six executives of China's state-owned ICBC bank in Madrid should be detained pending a judicial probe into suspected money laundering and tax fraud, a court statement said Saturday. Three Industrial and Commercial Bank of China officials were sent to jail while investigations continue. Three others were given the option of paying 100,000 euros ($111,300) bail, the statement said. Five executives were arrested Wednesday on suspicion of money laundering, crimes against Spain's tax authority and forgery. The sixth, who previously worked in ICBC's Madrid offices but now works in the Luxembourg branch, was nabbed Friday.

Yahoo board hires investment banks to mull possible sale

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Yahoo's board has hired three investment banking firms to evaluate potential bids for its Internet operations in the clearest sign yet that CEO Marissa Mayer may not have much more time to turn around the struggling company. The move announced Friday comes 2 1/2 weeks after Yahoo disclosed it would consider "strategic alternatives" while Mayer cuts costs through mass layoffs, office closures and a purge of unprofitable products. Mayer believes the overhaul will boost profits and sharpen Yahoo's focus on mobile apps and other services most likely to revive the company's revenue growth after years of decline. Some Yahoo shareholders frustrated with a steep drop in the company's stock price have been pushing for a sale of the Internet operations instead.

Nation

Trump wins big in South Carolina; Clinton takes Nevada

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Donald Trump barreled to victory in South Carolina's Republican primary Saturday, deepening his hold on the GOP presidential field as the race headed into the South. "Let's put this thing away," he shouted to cheering supporters.

Supporters for Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump hold signs during a South Carolina Republican primary night event Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016, in Spartanburg, S.C. AP

Out West, Hillary Clinton pulled out a crucial win over Bernie Sanders in Nevada's Democratic caucuses, easing the rising anxieties of her backers. At a raucous victory rally in Las Vegas, she lavished praise on her supporters and declared, "This one is for you."

The victories put Clinton and Trump in strong positions as the 2016 presidential election advanced toward the March 1 Super Tuesday contests, a delegate-rich voting bonanza. But South Carolina marked the end for Jeb Bush, the one-time Republican frontrunner and member of a prominent political family, who withdrew from the race.

"I firmly believe the American people must entrust this office to someone who understands that whoever holds it is a servant, not the master," Bush told supporters in an emotional speech.

South Carolina marked Trump's second straight victory—this one by 10 points—and strengthened his unexpected claim on the GOP nomination. No Republican in recent times has won New Hampshire and South Carolina and then failed to win the nomination.

"There's nothing easy about running for president," Trump said at his victory rally. "It's tough, it's nasty, it's mean, it's vicious. It's beautiful—when you win it's beautiful."

Marco Rubio edged out Ted Cruz for second place, according to complete but unofficial results. Bush and others lagged far behind.

"This has become a three-person race," Rubio declared.

Cruz harked back to his win in the leadoff Iowa caucuses as a sign he was best positioned to take down Trump. He urged conservatives to rally around his campaign, saying pointedly, "We are the only candidate who has beaten and can beat Donald Trump."

Thousands rally in NYC, around US over officer's conviction

NEW YORK (AP)—About 10,000 supporters of a former police officer convicted of fatally shooting an unarmed man in a darkened stairwell rallied in New York in one of several demonstrations held across the country Saturday to protest his conviction.

Peter Liang, who has said the shooting was an accident, was convicted of manslaughter this month in the death of Akai Gurley, who was fatally shot in 2014 inside a New York City public housing building.

Many of Liang's supporters say he is being scapegoated because of anger over other police shootings in New York and across the country and that he has been treated unfairly because he is Asian-American.

The protest in Brooklyn was one of more than 30 held around the U.S., organizers said. About 2,000 people marched in Philadelphia, and hundreds gathered at smaller rallies from Phoenix to Ann Arbor, Michigan. The events were organized by the "Coalition of Justice for Liang," a national group formed to support the officer.

"No scapegoat! No scapegoat!" protesters in New York shouted as the crowd descended on Cadman Plaza, just outside the federal courthouse in Brooklyn. They carried signs declaring Liang's prosecution "selective justice."

The 28-year-old Liang, who was fired immediately after a jury convicted him, faces up to 15 years in prison.

He testified that he fired his gun after being frightened by a noise. Prosecutors argued that Liang's actions were reckless and he shouldn't have had his gun out or the finger on the trigger. They also said he did nothing to help Gurley as he lay dying on the floor.

"We're here today to let people know that Chinese-Americans count as well," said protester Don Lee, a candidate for New York's state Assembly from lower Manhattan.

Lee added, "It is a tragedy that Akai Gurley was shot and killed. ... But this tragedy's been compounded by another tragedy, that Peter Liang, in an accident, is going to go to jail for up to 15 years."

Police: 6 dead, 3 injured in 'random' Michigan shootings

KALAMAZOO, Mich. (AP)—A man drove around a western Michigan city shooting people at three locations Saturday, including a Cracker Barrel restaurant and a Ford dealership, leaving six dead and three injured, two of them critically, police said.

Kalamazoo County Undersheriff Paul Matyas said a suspect was detained early Sunday in downtown Kalamazoo. Matyas said weapons were found in the man's vehicle and he did not resist when approached by law enforcement officers.

"The threat to the public is over," he said early Sunday.

Matyas said earlier that police believed the shootings were random and not targeting particular people, describing it as a "worst case scenario."

He said the shootings began about 6 p.m. local time. In addition to the restaurant and the car dealership, the third location was an apartment complex. All of the shootings were in the parking lots.

Kalamazoo is about 160 miles west of Detroit.

Asia

Death toll from ferocious Fiji cyclone rises to 3

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Officials in Fiji scrambled to assess damage Sunday in the wake of a ferocious cyclone that tore through the Pacific island chain, leaving at least three dead and collapsing hundreds of homes as people were sheltering from winds of up to 285 kilometers (177 miles) per hour.

A curfew was extended through Sunday and police empowered to make arrests without a warrant to ensure order. The government was responding quickly by clearing vital roads and the main airport reopened Sunday.

George Dregaso from Fiji's National Disaster Management Office said two people on Ovalau Island died when the house they were sheltering in collapsed on them, and another man was killed on Koro Island, although it wasn't clear how. Police are investigating reports of two more deaths on the main island of Viti Levu, Dregaso said.

Officials were trying to establish communications and road access to the hardest-hit areas, and wouldn't know the full extent of the damage and injuries until then.

AP

Road workers remove a fallen tree blocking a road near Lami, Fiji, Sunday, Feb. 21, 2016, after cyclone Winston ripped through the country.

Cyclone Winston hit Fiji on Saturday and moved westward overnight along the northern coast of Viti Levu. Fiji's capital, Suva, located in the southern part of the island, was not directly in the cyclone's path and avoided the worst of its destructive power.

"Truth be told, we've gotten off pretty lightly here in the capital," said Alice Clements, a spokeswoman for UNICEF. "It was still a pretty awful night. You could hear crashing trees and power lines, and popping rivets as roofs got lifted and ripped out."

She said there was foliage everywhere, which looks like it has been put through a blender.

Dregaso said one person on the west of Viti Levu had been hospitalized after being hit by flying debris.

About 80 percent of the nation's 900,000 people were without regular power, although about one-third of them were able to get some power from generators, he said. Landlines throughout Fiji were down, but most mobile networks were working.

North Korea escalates war of words in standoff with Seoul

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea responded to an unusually harsh verbal attack by South Korea's president against the North's leader and its recent nuclear test and rocket launch with a characteristically colorful invective of its own Saturday, calling her policy traitorous and adding that Washington's newly enacted sanctions are "laughable."

The North's official reaction—including the insult "senile granny"—was expected, though it took several days for Pyongyang to announce it through its state-run media.

North Korea regularly condemns South Korean President Park Geun-hye through sexist and violent language, saying recently that she lives upon "the groin of her American boss."

But the renewed war of words has some worried that the tensions could lead to real conflict.

As evidence of heightened anxieties, sounds of explosions early Saturday caused South Korean residents of a front-line island to prepare to evacuate, but it was later determined that the noise came from a North Korean artillery drill across the rivals' disputed maritime border. No North Korean projectiles crossed into the south side of the border.

Park has been backed up several high-profile demonstrations of U.S. military might that are seen by Pyongyang as deliberate provocations.

A U.S. B-52 bomber flew over the Korean Peninsula after the North's Jan. 6 nuclear test and U.S. F-22 stealth fighters were deployed to a an air base in South Korea after the Feb. 8 rocket launch.

Next month, the U.S. and South Korea are expected to hold larger-than-usual joint military drills. The annual war games are a major source of tensions, since Pyongyang sees them as evidence that Seoul and Washington, which are still technically at war with the North because the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty, are planning an invasion.

ASIAN BRIEFS

6 dead in protests for caste benefits in northern

NEW DELHI (AP)—Hundreds of army and paramilitary soldiers on Saturday tried to quell protests by angry mobs demanding government benefits in a northern Indian state, with at least six people killed in clashes between security forces and protesters, officials said. The violence raged for a second straight day, as protesters burned several railroad stations and attacked shops and vehicles in several towns in Haryana state, said police officer Y.P. Singhal. Protesters also blocked highways linking New Delhi to key northern cities, he said, adding that authorities ordered police to fire without warning at those instigating violence.

India pledges $250M for rebuilding quake-hit Nepal

NEW DELHI (AP)—India has pledged $250 million for post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal as the two countries try to remove irritants in their ties following protests in Nepal over the country's new constitution. The assistance covering housing, health, education and cultural heritage sectors in earthquake-hit districts is part of an accord signed Saturday during Nepalese Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Oli's visit to India. Nearly 9,000 people were killed in a 2015 earthquake and aftershocks in Nepal. Nearly a million houses and buildings were damaged. Oli and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated a transmission line for the supply of Indian electricity to Nepal under an Indian credit line of $13.5 million.

World

Syria rebels slam Russia, say ready for provisional truce

BEIRUT (AP)—The main Syrian opposition group said Saturday it is ready "in principle" to implement a provisional truce, slamming Russia and the Syrian government after a deadline set for a temporary cessation of hostilities passed.

The Saudi-backed group, known as the High Negotiations Committee, said any potential truce would require the Syrian government to first lift blockades from rebel-held communities and release thousands of detainees.

The statement followed a meeting among opposition groups held in the Saudi capital, Riyadh, on Saturday to discuss the situation after the passing of a deadline set by world powers, including Russia and the U.S.

A Feb. 12 meeting in Munich of 18 nations supporting opposing sides in Syria's five-year civil war agreed to bring about a cessation of hostilities within a week to allow for peace talks to resume in Geneva. But the truce never took hold amid intense fighting, including a massive Russian-backed government offensive near the Turkish border.

U.N. envoy Staffan de Mistura told the Swedish newspaper Svenska Dagbladet on Friday that he cannot "realistically" get the parties in the Syrian conflict back to the table by Feb. 25 as he had hoped.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry spoke with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Saturday to discuss the progress made by two U.N. task forces meeting in Geneva this week to discuss humanitarian assistance and a cessation of hostilities, according to State Department spokesman John Kirby.

Although the details "are not yet fully agreed upon," Kerry expressed his hope that a full cessation of hostilities could be achieved in the shortest timeframe possible, Kirby said.

The HNC said any truce must include all parties to the conflict, notably Russia and Iran, key supporters of President Bashar Assad's government. Russia has said that it would continue to strike at "terrorists" in Syria even during a cease-fire.

"The deadline set in Munich for a cessation of hostilities has passed without response from Russia or the regime, who show disdain for the international community and disregard for the lives of Syrians," said HNC spokesman Salem Al Meslet in a statement.

Nigeria: People detained by military disappear in northeast

YOLA, Nigeria (AP)—First come the whispers, then accusations loud enough to raise alarms throughout Nigeria's northeastern villages ravaged by extremist violence. Next, people accused of being Boko Haram are rounded up, sometimes by the military, sometimes by a civilian self-defense force. Many are never seen again.

The murmurs exploded into a rare open-throated protest recently when a teacher and two middle-aged farmers were taken away in Duhu village. Women who knew the men insisted they did not belong to the Islamic extremist group, and marched to a nearby military base to demand their release. Instead, the men were shot to death and their bodies were dumped outside town.

Nigeria's military denied ever detaining elementary school teacher Habu Bello and farmers Idrisa Dele and Umaru Hammankadi last month. But several villagers told The Associated Press that they watched as the men were led away by uniformed soldiers who accused them of being Boko Haram fighters.

Threats to civilians come from all sides and extrajudicial killings have not abated despite the president's declaration of victory over Boko Haram. The insurgents have shown no mercy, but many people are equally afraid of the soldiers and the self-defense Vigilante Group of Nigeria.

Now, they are learning to fear their own neighbors as well.

As refugees return home and try to rebuild lives from nothing—houses have been razed, wells poisoned, crops and livestock looted—some are capitalizing on the fear and insecurity to settle old scores, erase debts, win land disputes or otherwise get rid of enemies, human rights lawyer Sunday Joshua Wugira explained.

"If you have a problem with someone, you can influence the military to pick them up and then you will never hear about them again," he told AP from his offices in the northeastern city of Yola, where police are investigating the January killings of three brothers from the Fulani tribe.

Last survivor of Nazi death camp Treblinka dies in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Samuel Willenberg, the last survivor of Treblinka, the Nazi death camp in occupied Poland where 875,000 people were systematically murdered, has died in Israel at the age of 93.

Only 67 people are known to have survived the camp, fleeing in a revolt shortly before it was destroyed.

Treblinka holds a notorious place in history as perhaps the most vivid example of the "Final Solution," the Nazi plan to exterminate Europe's Jews. Unlike at other camps, where some Jews were assigned to forced labor before being killed, nearly all Jews brought to Treblinka were immediately gassed to death.

Only a select few—mostly young, strong men like Willenberg, who was 20 at the time- were spared from immediate death and assigned to maintenance work instead at the camp, located northeast of Warsaw.

On Aug. 2, 1943, a group of Jews stole some weapons, set fire to the camp and headed to the woods. Hundreds fled, but most were shot and killed by Nazi troops in the surrounding mine fields or captured by Polish villagers who returned them to Treblinka.

"The world cannot forget Treblinka," Willenberg told The Associated Press in a 2010 interview.

He described how he was shot in the leg as he climbed over bodies piled at the barbed wire fence and catapulted over. He kept running, ignoring dead friends in his path. He said his blue eyes and "non-Jewish" look allowed him to survive in the countryside before arriving in Warsaw and joining the Polish underground.

After the war Willenberg moved to Israel and became a surveyor for the Housing Ministry. Later in life, he took up sculpting to describe his experiences. His bronze statues depicted Jews standing on a train platform, a father removing his son's shoes before entering the gas chambers, a young girl having her head shaved, and prisoners removing bodies.

Health & Fitness

Centenarians: The oldest of the old are living longer

MCT

In the United States, there are more 100-year-olds alive than ever before.

Right now in the United States, there are more 100 year olds alive than ever before.

In a recent report, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that this sector of the population is increasing in number and they are living longer. Dr. James Kirkland, the director of Mayo Clinic's Robert and Arlene Kogod Center on Aging, says there are many reasons for the increase in the number of centenarians.

Why people are living longer:

- The development of sewage and water systems
- The discovery of antibiotics
- Better obstetric care
- Improved treatment of age-related diseases
- Better health education

Kirkland also says some aspects of why and how people live to be over 100 remain a mystery.

"People 100 years old and older seem to be resilient and more indestructible," he says. "We want to study and learn what we can about 100-year-olds, especially their genetics, to see if there are treatments we can develop to try to increase health span for the general population."

Kirkland's research focuses on ways to delay or prevent age-related diseases in order to extend people's health span, which is the period of life when one lives free of disability, pain, dependence and chronic disease. ***(From Mayo Clinic News Network)***

Report: Hawaii leads nation in getting too little sleep

NEW YORK (AP)—Tired of hearing that more than a third of U.S. adults don't get enough sleep? Here's something new: a government report about which states get the most sack time.

It says South Dakota has the largest proportion of residents who get at least seven hours of sleep each night.

Hawaii—often thought of as a peaceful vacation spot—has the lowest proportion.

Here's the lowdown:

THE PROBLEM

For adults, the recommended amount of sleep is seven to nine hours each night. Past studies have found that more than one-third of U.S. adults get less. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Thursday released a new round of national survey data that found the same thing.

Some of those people—nearly 10 percent of Americans, by some estimates—suffer chronic insomnia and may seek a physician's help. Inadequate sleep has been tied to the start and worsening of a range of diseases and conditions, including diabetes, heart disease, obesity and depression.

THE STATES

The latest CDC report, based on surveys of more 444,000 adults in 2014, for the first time offers a look at findings in all 50 states. The Great Plains states led the nation in healthy sleep, buoyed by South Dakota, where 72 percent of those surveyed said they averaged at least 7 hours nightly.

The South and Appalachian states got the least sleep as a region. But Hawaii was the worst individual state, where 56 percent of respondents got the recommended amount of sleep. The report also found that while two-thirds of white people nationally got enough sleep, only about half of blacks, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders did.

THE RECOMMENDATION

The report didn't dig into why certain states or racial groups got less sleep than others. Experts believe several factors could be involved. For example, people with steady jobs and normal work hours tend to get more sleep than others. Smoking and health problems also can rob people of sleep, said the CDC's Anne Wheaton, one of the report's authors.

Doctors offer tips for good sleeping that include sticking to a regular bedtime schedule, getting exercise each day and avoiding caffeine and nicotine at night.

Study: Right gut bacteria may protect against malnutrition

WASHINGTON (AP)—Manipulating what kinds of bacteria live in the gut might lead to a new way to treat millions of children suffering chronic malnutrition, says new research that suggests the right microbes can help get the most out of a poor diet.

Researchers culled intestinal bacteria from babies and toddlers in Malawi, where malnutrition is a serious problem, and transferred them into mice for study. Tweaking those gut microbes improved growth—even though the animals didn't eat more, or more nutritiously.

We share our bodies with trillions of bacteria, a customized set called a microbiome that starts building at birth, and Thursday's work is the latest to illustrate how crucial it is to develop a healthy one. Among the findings: Certain nutrients in breast milk may help that happen.

"If we could hammer home a key point, microbiota count," said Dr. Jeffrey Gordon of Washington University in St. Louis, who led the series of experiments published in the journals Science and Cell. "Building healthy gut microbiota we think is important for health in the course of one's life."

Gut bacteria do more than simply break down food for digestion. They synthesize particular vitamins and micronutrients, and influence immune responses, for example.

"A healthy microbiome will allow us to access calories we might not have been able to use before," explained Dr. Ilseung Cho, a gastroenterologist and gut bacteria specialist at New York University School of Medicine, who wasn't involved in the new work.

More research is needed before testing the approach in children, but Cho said the findings suggest there may be "very precise bacteria or very precise nutrient interventions that can unlock the microbiome and help it combat malnutrition."

While providing special "therapeutic foods" and vitamin supplements helps reduce deaths from malnutrition, Gordon said children still experience stunted growth and neurodevelopmental problems. His team turned to Malawi, where according to UNICEF almost half of children under 5 have growth stunted by malnutrition. The researchers already suspected gut bacteria played a role, based on previous research with pairs of Malawian twins, only some of whom were affected.

This time, working with more than 250 healthy or undernourished children, Gordon's team defined how a healthy gut microbiome normally develops—and found that the chronically malnourished tots harbored an immature one, too young for their age.

Are those abnormal gut bacteria a result of the kids' malnutrition, or could they actually be contributing to it? To tell, the researchers transferred gut bacteria from either healthy or malnourished tots into different sets of germ-free baby mice, rodents born in sterile conditions so they lacked their own intestinal microbes. They received a mouse version of the typical Malawian diet, primarily corn flour with beans, peanuts and certain vegetables.

Despite eating the same calories, mice with the healthy gut bacteria gained more lean body mass, and showed healthier bone development and better metabolism in the liver, brain and muscles, the team reported in Science.

"The growth of these animals is markedly different," Gordon said.

Can the unhealthy gut bacteria be repaired? The researchers switched up the cages so some healthy mice could live with some unhealthy ones and, through that yucky rodent trait of eating feces, trade their gut bacteria. Sure enough, some microbes the team had identified as particularly healthy invaded the intestines of the undernourished mice—and prevented their growth impairment. Two bugs with tongue-twisting names—Ruminococcus gnavus and Clostridium symbiosum—seemed key.

In the U.S., doctors sometimes perform fecal transplants to alter the gut bacteria of patients suffering certain intestinal diseases. When it comes to malnutrition, the goal would be to build healthy gut bacteria from the start.

So the researchers next looked at babies' first food—breast milk—and found certain nutrients may play a role in how their microbiome develops.

Breast milk from the mothers of the healthy Malawian babies harbors higher levels of sugars containing sialic acid, a nutrient linked to brain development, the team reported in Cell.

Using a version of those sugars made from cow's milk, the researchers once again put gut bacteria from malnourished children into mice and supplemented some of the rodents' diets with the sugars. Sure enough, the supplemented mice grew better. Repeating the experiment with piglets showed the same benefit.

It's not extra calories, Gordon stressed. Different strains of bacteria were interacting at different stages of the sugars' digestion, pointing to what he calls a complex food web in the gut.

Life & Style

Harper Lee leaves behind questions about her life and work

NEW YORK (AP)—Harper Lee has died, but the conversation about her life and work has only begun.

"I think the retrospective will be more useful than what was said during her lifetime, because there are a lot of things we can get down to that were impossible before," Lee's friend Wayne Flynt, an Alabama-based historian, told The Associated Press.

Lee's death Friday at age 89 comes almost exactly a year after her publisher, HarperCollins, stunned the world by announcing that a second novel by the author of "To Kill a Mockingbird" would be released, ending what many believed was a permanent and much-desired literary silence.

With Lee confined to a nursing home in her native Monroeville, Alabama, and communicating only through press releases that many wondered if she even knew about, the debate about her state of mind and about the second book, "Go Set a Watchman," took off without her. It will likely grow as those close to her finally speak up and more is learned about what, if any, other writings she left behind.

"Everybody from the newspaper boy to the checkout girl to the local minister will be remembering Harper Lee with fondness or with an ax to grind, depending on how they were treated," said Lee biographer Charles Shields, whose "Mockingbird: A Portrait of Harper Lee" was published in 2006 and will be reissued this year.

Flynt, who delivered the eulogy at Lee's private memorial service Saturday in Monroeville, is among those thinking about a memoir.

Lee's retreat from public life over the past half-century created one kind of mystery; last summer's publication of "Go Set a Watchman" started another. Millions who thought they "knew" Atticus Finch, who named their children for him and became lawyers because of him were faced with a seemingly different man in the new book, which took place 20 years later but actually had been written before Lee turned to what became "To Kill a Mockingbird."

The bold attorney who in the 1930s defended a black man accused of rape in "Mockingbird" had aged into a spiteful reactionary condemning the Supreme Court's 1954 decision to outlaw segregation in public schools. Was the Atticus of "Mockingbird" a romanticized figure and the Atticus of "Watchman" closer to the truth? Did Atticus, based closely on Lee's father, really change or was he simply a patrician more comfortable with the old rules, when all the powers belong to whites?

Ralph Eubanks, a former editor of the Virginia Quarterly Review and currently a visiting professor of Southern studies at Millsaps College in Jackson, Mississippi, said that the brilliance of "Mockingbird" was in how it could make anyone from the North or South identify with the issues and with the characters.

"For 'Go Set a Watchman,' there was no one you were cheering for," he said. "That for me changed the dynamic."

Harper Lee *Author*

Born: 1926, Monroeville, Ala.
Died: Feb. 19, 2016

Books:
"To Kill a Mockingbird" (1960)
Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, 1961
"Go Set a Watchman" (2015)

Awarded the **Presidential Medal of Freedom** in 2007

Source: Harper Collins, Pulitzer Prizes, U.S. Senate
Graphic: Tribune News Service

In an email to The Associated Press, award-winning historian Isabel Wilkerson said that Lee had created two equally worthy legacies.

"Harper Lee has left us a great gift: a beloved vision of our better selves in 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and a thornier reflection of what lies beneath in her earlier manuscript, 'Go Set a Watchman,'" wrote Wilkerson, best known for "The Warmth of Other Suns," which traced black migration from the South in the 20th century.

"In both, she has bravely given us versions of our country for us to ponder for generations."

James McBride, winner of the National Book Award in 2013 for the novel "Good Lord Bird" and author of the upcoming nonfiction "Kill 'em and Leave" about James Brown, said reading "To Kill a Mockingbird" as a child made him want to become a writer and that it "crystallized" for him an awareness of racism that had been "floating around him." Nobel laureate Toni Morrison and others have labeled the book a "white savior" novel, but McBride believes that "Mockingbird" is the best story that Lee could have told.

"Yes, I would have liked to see the black characters displayed with a lot more dimension," he said. "But Harper Lee gave it all she had. She left nothing behind, and that's all you can ask for."

McBride has re-read "Mockingbird" a few times, catching new and important details with each reading, and has given the book to his kids, too.

He has not read "Go Set a Watchman."

"I prefer to remember 'To Kill a Mockingbird' and Atticus Finch and all those characters as Harper Lee wanted us to remember them. I believe she wasn't strong enough at the end of her life to make any informed decisions about her work," he said.

"There is no question in my mind that Harper Lee is a great American writer with the best of intentions. You have to start the conversation about race somewhere, and Harper Lee is a great place to start it."

Tenth Year Death Anniversary

Remembering.....

Isidro Atalig Sablan

LOVINGLY KNOWN AS
"SID"

Ten years ago, our beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather and brother, in remembrance of his passing away, we the family invite our relatives and friends to join us as we begin the traditional nine days of daily masses beginning February 22nd through March 1st, 2016 at 6:00 am at the Kristo-Rai church.

On the final day, Tuesday, March 1st, 2016, breakfast will be served immediately after the mass at the Kristo-Rai Social Hall.

Your prayers, thoughts and presence will forever be appreciated.

"From ANGIE, children and the family..."

'Mockingbird' author Harper Lee buried in Alabama hometown

MONROEVILLE, Ala. (AP)—On a day when mockingbirds sang outside the courthouse that inspired her classic American novel, author Harper Lee was laid to rest Saturday in a private ceremony, a reflection of how she had lived.

A few dozen people who comprised Lee's intimate circle gathered at a church in the small Alabama town of Monroeville, which the author used as a model for the imaginary town of Maycomb, the setting of her Pulitzer Prize-winning novel "To Kill a Mockingbird." Lee died Friday at age 89.

Lee's longtime friend, history professor Wayne Flynt, eulogized her in a ceremony at First United Methodist Church. Afterward, her casket was taken by silver hearse to an adjacent cemetery where her parents, A.C. Lee and Frances Finch Lee, and sister, Alice Lee, are buried. A spray of red and white roses covered the family headstone at the cemetery

Flynt said he delivered a eulogy that Lee specifically requested years ago. Entitled "Atticus Inside Ourselves," it was a tribute Flynt gave in 2006 when she won the Birmingham Pledge Foundation Award for racial justice. Flynt said Lee liked the speech so much that she wanted him to give it as her eulogy.

AP

Friends and family of author Harper Lee leave the First United Methodist Church after a private funeral service, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016, in Monroeville, Ala.

"I want you to say exactly that," Flynt quoted Lee as saying at the time. "Not one thing more, and not one thing less."

"If I deviated one degree, I would hear this great booming voice from heaven, and it wouldn't be God," Flynt said in an earlier interview.

Details of the service were fiercely guarded. The author, who for decades had declined media interviews, had wanted a quick and quiet funeral without pomp or fanfare, family members said.

"We obeyed her wishes," said Jackie Stovall, Lee's second cousin.

The town was appropriately somber a day after their native daughter's death. Black bows adorned the doors of the old courthouse in Monroeville where Lee as a child, like her literary creation Scout Finch, would peer down from the balcony as her lawyer father tried his cases in the courtroom.

Mockingbirds chirped and frolicked among blooming camellia bushes outside the courthouse on a warm Alabama morning that teased the early arrival of spring.

Umberto Eco, author of 'The Name of the Rose,' dead at 84

FILE - In a Sunday, Oct.31, 2010 file photo, Italian writer, medievalist, semiotician, philosopher, literary critic and novelists Umberto Eco waves to public during the Italian State RAI TV program in Milan, Italy. AP

MILAN (AP)—Umberto Eco catapulted to global literary fame three decades ago with "The Name of the Rose," a novel in which professorial erudition underpinned a medieval thriller that sold some 30 million copies in more than 40 languages.

The Italian author and academic who became one of Italy's best-known cultural exports and keenest cultural critics, died at home in Milan on Friday evening after a battle with cancer, according to a family member who asked not to be identified.

His death was earlier confirmed by his American publisher, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt.

Eco's contribution to Italian literature was lauded by political and cultural figures alike. A memorial service will be held on Tuesday at Milan's Sforza Castle, a grand citadel which is overlooked by Eco's book-filled house.

French President Francois Hollande remembered Eco as "an immense humanist," adding that "libraries have lost an insatiable reader, universities a dazzling professor and literature a passionate writer."

Italian Premier Matteo Renzi said Eco "united a unique intelligence of the past and an inexhaustible capacity to anticipate the future."

Italian author Elisabetta Sgarbi, who founded a publishing house last year with Eco and other Italian writers, called him "a great living encyclopedia" who taught young people "the capacity to love discoveries and marvels."

Author of books ranging from novels to scholarly tomes to essay collections, Eco was fascinated with the obscure and the mundane, and his books were both engaging narratives and philosophical and intellectual exercises. The bearded, heavy-set scholar, critic and novelist took on the esoteric theory of semiotics, the study of signs and symbols in language; popular culture icons like James Bond; and the technical languages of the Internet.

"The Name of the Rose" made Eco an international celebrity, especially after the medieval thriller set in a monastery was made into a film starring Sean Connery in 1986. "The Name of the Rose" sold millions of copies, a feat for a narrative filled with partially translated Latin quotes and puzzling musings on the nature of symbols.

Eco said his work on the novel was "prodded by a seminal idea: I felt like poisoning a monk."

The book sparkled with references to his intellectual preoccupations.

"Books are not made to be believed, but to be subjected to inquiry," he wrote. "When we consider a book, we mustn't ask ourselves what it says but what it means, a precept that the commentators of the holy books had very clearly in mind."

The last line of the book says, in Latin: "Yesterday's rose endures in its name; we hold empty names." That meant, Eco said, that ideas are the only imperishable things.

Eco retouched the thriller in 2012, telling Corriere della Sera that he wanted to change "certain expressions and repetitions that annoyed me," while also lightening up some of the Latin citations to help readers, "even if I could have forgotten the readers, seeing as the book has sold 30 million copies."

Eco told the newspaper that the official publishing numbers may have been off by a large margin, explaining that when "The Name of the Rose" was published there were no deals with publishing houses in Eastern Europe and Asia, which published their own translations without obtaining rights or paying royalties.

His second novel, the 1988 "Foucault's Pendulum," a byzantine tale of plotting publishers and secret sects also styled as a thriller, was successful, too—and so complicated that an annotated guide accompanied it to help the reader follow the plot.

In 2000, when awarding Eco Spain's prestigious Prince of Asturias Prize for communications, the jury praised his works "of universal distribution and profound effect that are already classics in contemporary thought."

Eco was born Jan. 5, 1932, in Alessandria, a town east of Turin. Eco, whose family name is supposedly a Latin acronym of ex caelis oblatus, or gift from heaven, given to his foundling grandfather by a city official, said the insular culture there was a source for his "world vision: a skepticism and an aversion to rhetoric." He earned a degree in philosophy from the University of Turin in 1954, beginning his fascination with the Middle Ages and the aesthetics of text. He later defined semiotics as a "philosophy of language." He suffered a crisis of faith during this period, abandoning the Roman Catholic Church.

He had always loved storytelling and as a teenager wrote comic books and fantasy novels.

"I was a perfectionist and wanted to make them look as though they had been printed, so I wrote them in capital letters and made up title pages, summaries, illustrations," he told The Paris Review in 1988. "It was so tiring that I never finished any of them. I was at that time a great writer of unaccomplished masterpieces."

Eco remained involved with academia, becoming the first professor of semiotics at the University of Bologna in 1971. He also lectured at institutions worldwide and was a fellow at elite institutions including Oxford University and Columbia University. His website listed 34 institutions that had awarded him honorary degrees by 2008.

But Eco was also able to bridge the gap between popular and intellectual culture, publishing his musings in daily newspapers and Italy's leading weekly magazine L'Espresso.

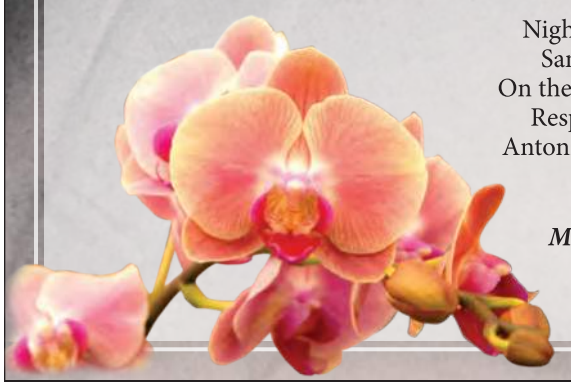
In Loving Memory of

Agnes E. Andres Schrack

Born: January 21, 1952 • Died: February 12, 2016

Husband:
Robert Allen Schrack
Mother and Father:
†Concepcion S. Echang and †Echang Andres
Mother and Father In-Law:
Mr. & Mrs. †Robert and †Dorothy Schrack
Mothers by Heart:
Ms. Susana Blau (†Betty, Gayline, Cris, Lorie, †Katherine, Imaculada, †Nobert, Duffy, Shun, Jack)
Ms. Maria A. Stole (Ginnie, Jesse)
Children/Stepchildren:
Mr. & Mrs. Doveline and Vanessa Andres (Irenia, Damian, Anica, Derrence, Manel Jr., Jesus)
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Regina Villacrusis (Raegine, Tyler, Jaden, Sebastian, Shayden, Kya and Aliiyah)
Mr. & Mrs. Marshon and Darlene Mongami (Brett, Mars, Brandee, Matt, Maxx & †Macc)
Erika Schrack & Jason Jonah
Lindsay Anne Schrack
Sisters:
Mr. & Mrs. Paulus and Columba Stol Temol (†Jordana Echang and †Leo Masters (Leo, August & Amanda) Lerins and Thomasa Stole (Angel, Jenny, Guliermo, & Herby)
Mr. & Mrs.†Salvino and Justina N. Bultedaob (Estella, Phillip, Paloma & Calvin)
†Ms. Betty Blau (Vanessa)
Ms. Gayline Blau (Wriik and Oilang)
Mr. & Mrs. Richard and Viola (Cris) Chisholm (Nathan and †Alex)
Ms. Lorie Blau (Douglas)
†Ms. Katherine Blau (†Shoudy, JJ Lewis)
Mr. & Mrs. †Sidonio and Imaculada Blibei (Isang, Trachol, Tomei, Jim)
Brothers:
Mr. Nicolas (Sabo) and Frances Ramon (Debbie, Blumel, Antonette, Nick & Manny)
†Mr. Nobert Blau
Mr. Serafin (Duffy) Blau (Ryan)
Mr. & Mrs. Julius (Shun) and Shana Blunt (Hoover, Christine, Kenneth, Melody, Jamie)
Mr. Jack Blau
Brother-in-laws:
Bruce W. Schrack (Caitlin, Samantha)
Eric J. & Kay Schrack (Brookley & Jason Youther, Lauren & Taylor Harris)

Survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Relatives and Friends.



Nightly Mass followed by Rosary at San Antonio Church at 6:00pm.
On the day of burial, February 23, 2016, Responso will be at 7:45am at San Antonio Church and Mass of Christian Burial will be at 11:00am.

Mesulang, Melau, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Thank You!

Andres-Schrack Family

'Friends,' 'Taxi' stars toast pre-eminent sitcom director

LOS ANGELES (AP)—You don't have to thank James Burrows, given that Jennifer Aniston, Ted Danson and Jim Parsons are lavishing him with praise and gratitude.

But if you're a TV viewer who ever got a giggle or chortle or belly laugh out of "Friends" or "Cheers" or "The Big Bang Theory," you may also want to tip your hat to the director, the acknowledged master of the three-camera sitcom.

Burrows steps into the spotlight to receive his due in NBC's "Must See TV: An All-Star Tribute to James Burrows," airing 9-11 p.m. EST Sunday.

The special features 40-plus actors from the above shows and "Taxi," ''Frasier," ''Will & Grace," and "Mike & Molly"—all beneficiaries of the Burrows touch.

The stars' memories of working with him are punctuated by series clips, with Jane Lynch and Andy Cohen moderators for the evening taped at the Hollywood Palladium theater.

"I call Steven Spielberg the Jimmy Burrows of feature film," said "Will & Grace" star Sean Hayes, an executive producer for the special. "Bob Newhart said it best: After two hit shows, you can call it luck. After 50, it's talent."

AP

In this image released by NBC, director James Burrows, standing center, poses with the cast of "Friends," from left, David Schwimmer, Matt LeBlanc, Jennifer Aniston, seated, Courteney Cox and Lisa Kudrow during the taping of "Must See TV: An All-Star Tribute to James Burrows."

There's teamwork and alchemy in every TV success, of course, but Burrows clearly has the knack of making even the best projects better. His 10 primetime Emmys and four Directors Guild awards attest to that.

He took a medium commonly accepted as the property of writers, one in which itinerant directors tend to bump from series to series, episode to episode, and made it his own.

A deluge of scripts still comes his way each year from producers who hope Burrows will give their pilots the edge needed to gain network acceptance. The lucky few win his services throughout the season; "Cheers" had him exclusively, and he directed the full run of "Will & Grace."

He hit the 1,000-episode milestone on the upcoming NBC series, "Crowded."

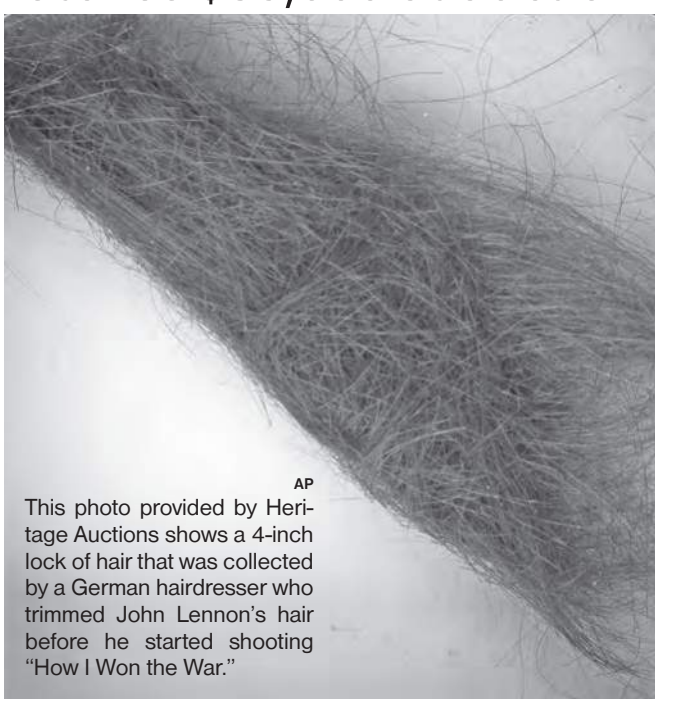
The soft-spoken Burrows, 75, declines to embrace the "genius" label some have tagged him with. But he acknowledges he's a good fit with the multi-camera format taped in front of a studio audience.

"I'm a theater rat. I was born in the business," said the son of writer-director Abe Burrows, whose Broadway credits included "Guys and Dolls," ''How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and "Cactus Flower."

His father "used to trundle me along to rehearsals. ... It would sink in while I would dream and run around the theater," Burrows told a recent teleconference.

After a start directing summer stock and dinner theater, Burrows moved to TV in the 1970s, getting his big break on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and never switching to single-camera comedies like "Modern Family."

Lock of John Lennon's hair fetches $35,000 at auction



AP

This photo provided by Heritage Auctions shows a 4-inch lock of hair that was collected by a German hairdresser who trimmed John Lennon's hair before he started shooting "How I Won the War."

DALLAS (AP)—A lock of John Lennon's hair that was snipped as he prepared for a film role has sold for $35,000.

Dallas-based Heritage Auctions said Saturday that the 4-inch lock of hair was purchased by Paul Fraser, a United Kingdom-based memorabilia collector.

A German hairdresser kept a tuft of Lennon's hair after giving him a trim before the Beatle started filming "How I Won the War," a dark comedy released in 1967. The movie follows the World War II misadventures of British troops led by an inept commander.

The hair was one of several Beatles-related items on auction. A photograph of the iconic band signed by all four members went for $42,500. And a sealed copy of the band's "butcher" cover for the "Yesterday and Today" album went for $125,000.

'Kill Bill' actress Lucy Liu to be honored at Harvard

AP

In this Jan. 26, 2016 file photo, Lucy Liu participates in AOL's BUILD Speaker Series at AOL Studios in New York.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—Actress Lucy Liu is being honored at Harvard for her humanitarian work.

The "Kill Bill" and "Charlie's Angels" actress, currently starring in the CBS series "Elementary," was named 2016 artist of the year by the Harvard Foundation for Intercultural and Race Relations.

She's scheduled to receive the award Saturday evening in a presentation at the Cultural Rhythms Festival at Sanders Theater in Cambridge.

Born to immigrant parents in the New York City borough of Queens, Liu is a UNICEF Ambassador and has been a spokeswoman for the Human Rights Campaign. Harvard says she's "worked tirelessly to raise awareness of the plight of women and children in some of the world's most impoverished countries."

Previous Harvard Foundation winners have included Eva Longoria, Andy Garcia, Matt Damon, Denzel Washington and Salma Hayek.

Couple's separation issues might benefit from a break

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with my girlfriend, "Allison," for two years, but lately there have been frequent rough patches. I'm 18 and a college student. I love Allison, but the relationship is taking a toll on us physically and emotionally.

We have had to deal with separation ever since we got together. She's the only one with a car and a "real" job. I work on campus in a work-study program in exchange for reduced tuition. I try to help Allison as much as I can to reduce the stress on her.

She has asked me to transfer schools, but I'd like to stay where I am because I feel I will have the ability to make something of myself. I have suggested that maybe we need to go our separate ways so she doesn't have to pull the majority of the weight, but she gets upset and accuses me of not loving her. What should I do?

STRESSED STUDENT IN GEORGIA

DEAR STUDENT: First let me suggest what NOT to do. Do not allow Allison to pressure you into changing schools. It is important that you complete your education, and there is no guarantee that the financial arrangement you have with this school can be replicated somewhere else.

You and Allison are young, and long-distance relationships are often hard to maintain. That she is carrying the lion's share of the load right now is unfortunate, but it won't last forever. If she's unwilling to accept that, then I agree that perhaps it's time for the two of you to take a break.

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, I wrote to your mother about the many difficulties and stress of raising a very disabled son. Her advice gave me and my wife much needed encouragement. I keep her framed handwritten letter above my desk.

Our son passed away unexpectedly 17 months ago. Our family, neighbors and community gave us lots of support. Our son was loved by all. But for the past few months, it seems as if it is taboo for anyone to ask about how we are doing. Even if I mention our son in the context of a conversation, there is no follow-up.

I can understand people may be reluctant to open up a sorrow. However, I want to let them know it is OK to ask, "How are you doing?" I won't hold them hostage to a long, maudlin discourse. It just would be nice if people would still acknowledge his life and that we all still miss him.

ALWAYS HIS DAD IN COLORADO

DEAR DAD: I am glad you wrote because you are not alone in having this heartache. As a general rule, people are uncomfortable bringing up the subject of death because they are afraid they will cause the person more sadness. Rarely is this true. People who have suffered a loss NEED to know their loved one hasn't been forgotten. No one should be afraid to share a warm memory, or ask how a grieving family member is doing. To show that kind of sensitivity is a generous gift.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

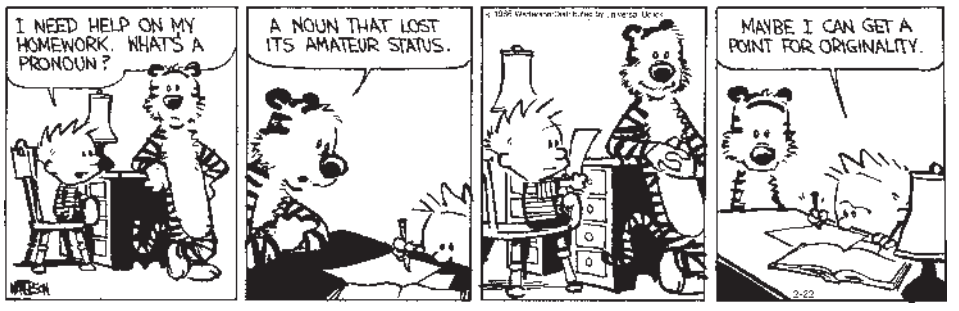
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

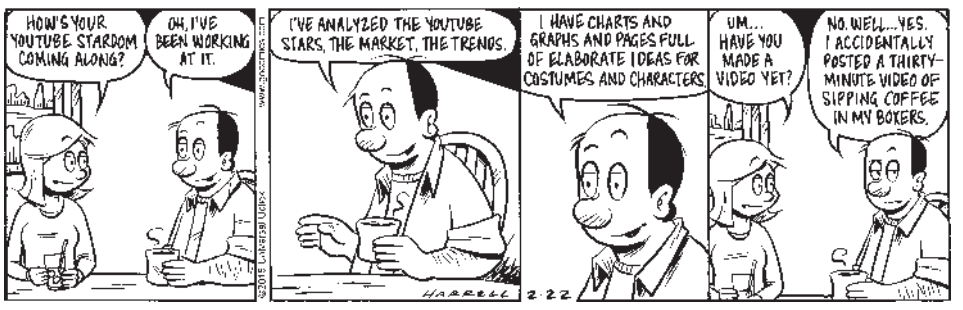


Garfield®

By Jim Davis

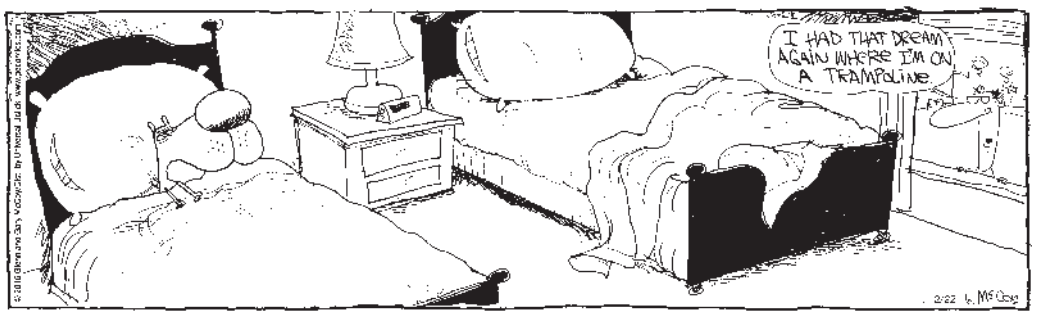
Adam@Home

By Bryan Basset


HOW'S YOUR YOUTUBE STARDOM COMING ALONG?
OH, I'VE BEEN WORKING AT IT.
I'VE ANALYZED THE YOUTUBE STARS, THE MARKET, THE TRENDS.
I HAVE CHARTS AND GRAPHS AND PAGES FULL OF ELABORATE IDEAS FOR COSTUMES AND CHARACTERS.
UM... HAVE YOU MADE A VIDEO YET?
NO. WELL... YES. I ACCIDENTALLY POSTED A THIRTY-MINUTE VIDEO OF SIPPING COFFEE IN MY BOXERS.
HARRELL
2-22

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

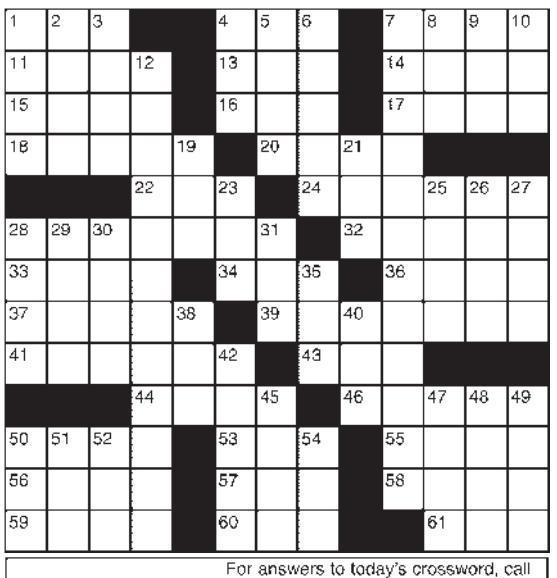
ACROSS
1 "Keep it down!"
4 Guy's date
7 Chaste
11 — of faith?
13 Mentalist Geller
14 Diamond arbiters
15 Honolulu's isle
16 Male
17 Tiffany treasure
18 Explosion
20 Singer/actor Ives
22 Glutton
24 Shrimp recipe
28 Willa Cather's "My —"
32 In progress
33 Animated figure
34 Hero sandwich
36 Branches
37 Curved moldings
39 Like a yenta
41 Outlaw-chasing groups
43 Suitable
44 Erie or Placid
46 Heart line
50 Bantu language
53 Guitar's kin
55 Lunch hour
56 In — (shortly)
57 Cariou of "Blue Bloods"
58 Thus
59 High point
60 1960s drug
61 Thither

DOWN
1 No neatnik
2 Make well
3 "Ver-r-ry funny!"
4 Wrigley product
5 Bedouin
6 "Peanuts" blanket carrier
7 Swindle
8 Actress Thurman
9 Spinning abbr.
10 Mentalist's gift
12 Risk disaster, perhaps
19 Heavy weight
21 — Victor
23 Dogtag wearers (Abbr.)
25 Muriel Spark's "Memento —"
26 Splendor
27 Teeny
28 On
29 NASA scrub
30 Low digits
31 Calendar abbr.
35 Fluffy scarf
38 Salty expanse
40 Hot tub
42 Cranium
45 Stretches (out)
47 Golfer McIlroy
48 Takeout request
49 Soon, poetically
50 Use a taser
51 Work with
52 Meadow
54 Conclude

Solution time: 27 mins.

R	O	D	I	N		B	A	D		E	_	S
A	R	I	S	E		E	C	O		L	C	T
F	A	S	T	S		F	I	S	H	F	R	Y
		H	O	I	H	O	U		E	I	N	E
P	E	R		S	_	R		S	I	N	E	S
A	T	A	D		G	E	E	K	S			
Z	A	G	R	E	B		N	I	T	W	I	T
			C	G	Y	P	T		S	I	R	C
_	F	T	N	O		U	R	B		S	A	D
A	L	E	C		S	L	E	I	G	H		
B	I	S	H	O	P	S		R	E	F	I	T
E	S	L		V	E	E		T	R	U	C	E
_	E	A		A	D	S		H	E	L	I	X

Friday's answer 2 - 22



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Drew Barrymore, 41; Thomas Jane, 47; Jeri Ryan, 48; Kyle MacLachlan, 57.

Happy Birthday: Take responsibility of matters and turn this year into your best ever. Look for any opportunity that will help you improve your world. This is not the time to be wasteful or frivolous, and certainly shouldn't be spent arguing with people who are not going to budge. Focus on the positives instead of the impossible. Your numbers are 6, 11, 21, 28, 33, 35, 43.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take care of pressing matters. Strive to improve your health and mental awareness. Avoid arguments that have the potential to upset your plans or cause setbacks. Share your concerns and push for change. A romantic encounter will surprise you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Stick to the facts, speak from the heart and avoid getting involved in a no-win discussion with someone who is insensitive to the causes you believe in. Put more time into improving yourself instead of trying to change others. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't make changes under pressure. If someone wants something from you, let him or her get it without your help. Focus on getting the highest returns. Offer everything you can to what you believe is right. Love is on the rise. ✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You have more going for you than you realize. Look around you and don't be afraid to shoot for the stars. Settle for nothing less than what you want. Delve into your personal beliefs and tweak your lifestyle accordingly. ✪✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Be honest about what you want to share. Set boundaries that allow everyone the freedom to be creative and live life under their own terms, and you will find peace and satisfaction. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Look at the less-obvious factors and you will understand what's unfolding around you. Add as much detail as possible to everything you do, and you will avoid interference from others. Strive to have more confidence in yourself and what you have to offer. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Put your plans into motion and assist those who need your help, and you will be praised for your kindness and consideration. Love is in the stars, so plan a romantic evening that will improve your personal life. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Explore heartfelt concerns and you will find a way to make a difference. A situation that is not going well between you and a friend is best left alone. Positive personal changes will result in greater creative freedom. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Tie up loose ends so that you are free to come and go as you please. Legal issues will develop if you neglect your responsibilities. Don't let what other people do cause anxiety or lead to a dispute. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Draw up and sign contracts. Move money around or invest in something unique. An opportunity to grow personally will help you find new ways to exploit your talents and skills. Be open to change and you will develop new friendships. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Keep a close watch on the people you care about. Protecting your relationships and nurturing what's important to you will help you avoid unsavory situations. Stick close to home and strive to keep the peace. Focus on love and romance. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Secrets will be revealed. Do your best to avoid situations that put you in a vulnerable position at work or when dealing with institutions. Look for alternatives if you don't like what's being offered. Do your research. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are a dreamer and a doer. You are a crusader and a humanitarian.

*Eugenia's website—**eugenialast.com**, Eugenia's android app @ **http://bit.ly/exhoro** and join Eugenia on **twitter/facebook/linkedin**.*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	7						1	
5		1		8		6		3
	3		9		6		4	
		7	1		9	4		
	1						2	
		6	4		5	8		
	5		7		2		8	
8		4		6		1		2
	6						5	

Difficulty Level ★ 2/22

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Friday's SUDOKU Answer

3	5	2	9	1	4	8	6	7
4	7	6	2	3	8	5	1	9
1	8	9	7	6	5	3	4	2
6	2	7	4	9	3	1	5	8
8	4	5	1	7	2	6	9	3
9	3	1	5	8	6	7	2	4
7	6	4	3	5	9	2	8	1
5	9	3	8	2	1	4	7	6
2	1	8	6	4	7	9	3	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 2/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'STAR WARS: THE FORCE AWAKENS' (FILM) **Solution: 10 letters**

L	D	L	L	A	H	N	M	O	D	R	O	F	U	T
E	Z	A	M	I	W	Y	P	S	L	E	I	N	A	D
I	G	H	I	Y	E	E	E	T	S	S	K	T	R	N
R	L	A	O	S	H	L	T	R	H	A	O	I	E	R
R	E	D	A	V	Y	D	E	E	R	O	V	R	(L)	E
A	A	A	J	B	A	I	R	H	I	E	O	(U)	O	P
C	D	R	N	J	M	R	A	N	R	L	(K)	A	R	O
H	E	T	P	O	A	R	E	N	Y	(E)	I	O	S	O
E	O	H	H	B	R	B	Y	K	A	E	R	O	A	R
W	L	G	A	I	K	E	R	N	L	G	H	G	N	T
B	O	E	S	W	D	F	M	A	O	A	R	N	T	M
A	S	O	M	A	I	E	D	A	M	H	W	O	E	R
C	N	R	A	N	O	A	J	I	D	S	T	Y	K	O
C	A	G	N	P	M	G	L	E	E	S	O	N	K	T
A	H	E	X	U	H	L	A	R	E	N	E	G	A	S

©2016 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 2/22

Adam, Anthony, Carrie, Chewbacca, Daisy, Dameron, Daniels, Darth, Domnhall, Driver, Finn, Fisher, Ford, General Hux, George, Gleeson, Hamill, Han Solo, Harrison, Jedi, JJ Abrams, Kylo Ren, Lead, Leia, Lor San Tekka, Luke, Mark, Mayhew, Maz, Nyongo'o, Obi Wan, Organa, Peter, Phasma, Poe, Rey, Ridley, Skywalker, Stormtrooper, Tatooine, Unkar, Vader, Yoda

Last Thursday's Answer: Doomsday

To purchase **WONDERWORD** books, visit www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480.

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WHATZIT Solution: In good spirits

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Find today's solution in classified section

JAGUAR LIMITED
DBA: CLUB MERMAID

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) WAITRESS

2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

PLEASE MAIL YOUR RESUME to PMB 697 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545 between 2:30PM – 9:00PM

JAPAN ENTERPRISES CORP.
DBA CLUB MICRONESIA

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(2) WAITRESS

2-3 years experience as a waitress in a Night Bar or an Entertainment Business.

Other Qualifications:
- At least 21-25 years old with pleasing personality.
- Full Time with flexible working hours.
- Salary: $6.05/hr
- Preferably can speak Japanese language fluently.

Please mail your resume to P.O. Box 502589, Saipan, MP 96950 or contact our Office at Tel. (670) 233-1545

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REM LOWERBASE
Warehouse #3 - Size: 6,000sq/ft
$0.65 per sq/ft. Negotiable

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 235-6527/28 or 285-1317

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BLUE LAGOON REALTY INC: Director of Sales & Marketing. Minimum of ten (10) years Resort' Sales & Marketing management experience required. Minimum of three (3) years Executive position experience. Responsible for planning, developing and implementing Sales & Marketing strategies for all Market segments, including Russian market. Fluent English and Russian. Knowledge of CNMI Travel industry and Russian market required. E-mail resume to info@mangoresort.com. Contact Elly at (670) 989-3325 for more information.

For Immediate Hiring

Sino Great Wall International Engineering Co., LLC
is a global interior and exterior decoration engineering company.

Position: **Administrative Officer - 1**

Requirements:
- General administrative officer must possess excellent typing skills, strong oral and written skills and the ability to communicate well with others. They must be able to work independently or on a team with other administrative professionals.
- College degree with 3 years' experience in the administrative field required.

Please submit resume to email address: sinogreatwallcnmi@gmail.com

---

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

System 4 U is looking for
Sales Representative

- Must be US Citizen or Green Card Holder
- With valid driver license + Car.
- Preferably female.

Please submit resume to system4u@teleguam.net or call Ms. Rose @ 483-7002 or 484-8780.

Please Note: Only Ms. Rose or Mr. Jimmy is allowed for any transaction for System 4 U Saipan

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Vacancy Announcement

(1) Barber/Beautician – One to Two years experience as Barber/Beautician. Knowledgeable in giving Hair Cut, Hair Colors, Hair High-lights.

Submit Applications To: Pam Pacific Enterprises Corp. Tel. 235-7270

Hong Ye Rental and Construction, Ltd.
P.O. Box 502997 Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

US Construction Workers
With 2 years experience, High School graduate.
Salary $6.55/hr.
If interested, submit resume to Hong Ye Hardware.

Vacancy Announcement

(1) Trash Collector — Atleast High School graduate. With valid driver's license. Needs to be physically fit and willing to work flexible time and must be hardworking.

Submit Applications To: AYD Services Inc. Tel.# 235-7011

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Clinical Embryologist
Must have 2 years lab experience, plus experience in clinical embryology.
Salary Negotiable.
Call Karen at 322-0419

LATITUDE N15 STUDIO, LLC. LOOKING FOR US WORKERS:

2 MAKE UP ARTIST
2 VIDEO OPERATOR
with 2 years experience required.

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Requirements: Superior Court and District/Federal Court Police Clearances, Health Certificate, and Food Handler's Certificate. Applications are available at the Main Office located on airport road, situated between American Red Cross Office and Historic Preservation Office. **Last day to submit application and requirements is Monday, February 29th, 2016.**

No phone calls please.

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ELLIOTT SYSTEMS, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Position: Mechanical Engineer
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Minimum Qualifications: With a college degree of Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. Must have at least 7 years of extensive work experience in mechanical engineering works involving power generation and heavy equipment.

Special Selection Factors: Must be willing and able to work weekends, rotating shifts and holidays when required. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a pre-employment written test and interview.

Preference: Previous work experience in a company that specializes in prime and stand-by power generation and heavy equipments maintenance is an advantage.

Place of Employment: Successful candidates will be assigned to work in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

How to Apply: Submit a professional resume to:

ELLIOTT SYSTEMS, LLC
Office Address: Capitol Hills, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 5568, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone/Fax: (670) 322-7374
Cell: (670) 285-5333
Email: jeff@elliottsystemsllc.com

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), ELLIOTT SYSTEMS, LLC. will make reasonable accommodations during any and all phases of the selection process for individuals with a disability. Please call (670) 322-7374 to request accommodations. ELLIOTT SYSTEMS, LLC is an equal opportunity employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin or disability.

Closing Date: **March 10, 2016**

MARIANAS
VISITORS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

■ MVA-RFP-16-2334 CHINA
■ MVA-RFP-16-2335 KOREA/TAIWAN & RUSSIA
■ MVA-RFP-16-2336 JAPAN

For: Representation, Promotion and Public Relations Services for the ■ China Market, and/or the ■ Korea/Taiwan & Russia Market and/or the ■ Japan Market. Proposers may choose to respond to one, two or all three proposal territories.

Opening Date: February 17, 2016 Time: 8:00 a.m.
Closing Date: April 15, 2016 Time: 3:00 p.m.

Submit sealed proposals to: The Marianas Visitors Authority
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950
USA

The Marianas Visitors Authority ("MVA") seeks to hire a contractor or contractors to provide marketing, internet, and public relations services to the MVA and assist the MVA with its mandate to promote tourism to the Northern Mariana Islands from the ■ Japanese market, the ■ Chinese market and the ■ Korea/Taiwan & Russia markets. These 3 contracts will each be for an initial two-year period, commencing on October 1, 2016, with an option to renew for one (1) additional two (2) year period and one (1) additional one (1) year period (up to 5 total years).

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the Marianas Visitors Authority office between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, except holidays or by emailing the **MVA** at jtorres@mymarianas.com or by fax to 1-670-664-3237.

Gratuities, kickbacks, and contingent fees are prohibited by the laws of the Northern Mariana Islands. NMIAC §§ 90-20-120, 90-20-125.

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson
MVA Board of Directors

/s/ PERRY P. TENORIO
Managing Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-16-005

WATER MAIN EXTENSION PROJECT, SAILING DRIVE, DANDAN (W12-022D)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Water Main Extension Project in Dandan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work consists of the installation of approximately 940 LF of new 8-inch PVC water line, along with approximately 500 LF of new 2" PVC water line. It will also involve the reconnection of new and existing customers onto the new waterlines within the project area.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **75 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **March 1, 2016 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-16-005, Water Main Extension Project, Sailing Drive, Dandan** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 18, 2016,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. *A Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 3, 2016** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, CUC Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer – via email john.riegel@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. **16-006**

Opening Date: **Wednesday, February 17, 2016**
Closing Date: **Tuesday, March 01, 2016**

Engineering Technician

Duties: Under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Provides technical support and assistance related to project management, safety, quality control and assurance; performs field investigations and construction inspections; performs field or easement verifications; monitors equipment and materials used; ensures adherence with plans, specifications and contractual compliance; and submits deficiencies for review and correction. Gathers data through observation and by reviewing relevant resources such as construction plans, blue prints, specifications, maps, technical drawings, property records, and/or GPS data. Enters, updates and verifies data in systems; prepares and maintains reports, notices, drawings, graphs, charts, correspondence, cost estimates and related engineering documents in accordance with standards. Plans and prioritizes schedule and routes for field inspections; researches existing project sites and explores potential construction sites; monitors rights of way and easements. Monitors and reviews equipment and supplies inventory; provides notification of resource or maintenance needs. Prepares finished drawings from sketches, notes, existing drawings for design, reports, and construction plans using AutoCAD, GIS, and related applications. Performs other duties of a similar nature and level as assigned. One position is primarily intended to focus on AUTOCAD & drafting. The second position is primarily intended to focus on construction inspection. Provides support and assistance with special engineering studies.

LOCATION(S): Water & Wastewater Engineering Division, **Saipan,** Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $20,826.00 per annum - $28,115.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): Two (2)

Minimum Requirements: High School Diploma, GED, or ABE Program AS and 2 years of journey level experience in drafting, office and field engineering, or construction and inspection. Knowledge of: Applicable Federal, Commonwealth and local laws, codes, regulations and/or ordinances; Basic engineering and construction terminology, methods, practices, and techniques; Construction, sequencing and procedures for Water & Wastewater facilities; Mathematical concepts; Experience in Advanced AutoCAD Drafting for utility infrastructure. Applicable equipment, controls and systems of assigned area of responsibility; Modern office technology. AutoCAD programs; mathematics; basic surveying and engineering concepts. Skill in: Interpreting and applying applicable laws, codes, regulations and standards; Reading and interpreting plans, specifications, field notes, maps and related technical documentation; Performing engineering surveys, mapping and locating; Performing inspections and identifying issues in assigned area of responsibility; Performing mathematical calculations and estimating resources and costs; drafting plans from sketches Researching, troubleshooting and problem solving; Preparing technical reports, maps and related documents used in assigned area of responsibility; Applying safe work practices; Planning and prioritizing activities and routes; Utilizing a computer and relevant software applications; Utilizing communication and interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, and others to sufficiently exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950-1220 U.S.A.
Tel. Nos. (670) 235-7025 to 32 Fax (670) 235-5131

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. **16-007**

Opening Date: **Wednesday, February 17, 2016**
Closing Date: **Tuesday, March 01, 2016**

Junior Engineer

Duties: Work under the direct supervision of the Chief Engineer or his/her designee. Designs sanitation facilities and oversees the completion of assigned tasks. Executes and coordinates portions of assigned projects and tasks; adhere to applicable specifications and standards. Manage assigned aspects of water and sewer facilities projects. Perform construction inspection. Support operations with technical assistance; collect, maintain, and organize operational data for engineering analysis. Maintain project files; prepare related correspondence. Prepare design calculations, engineering drawings, and sketches. Draft parts of a variety of engineering reports and correspondence. Assist with data collection, troubleshooting and equipment analysis; evaluate water and sewer system needs and perform engineering analysis. Perform research for design, efficiency improvement, and operations support. Perform other duties of a similar nature or level.

LOCATION(S): Water & Wastewater Divisions, **Saipan**, Northern Mariana Islands, USA.
SALARY: $37,756.00- $40,000.00 per annum.
CONTRACT: Not Contracted.
POSITION(S): Two (2).

Minimum Requirements: Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil or Environmental Engineering. Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering is also acceptable if candidate has one year of experience engineering water and/or wastewater systems. Knowledge of: Engineering principles and practices; mathematical, pumping and hydraulics, and wastewater conveyance and treatment concepts. Knowledge of and ability to use AutoCAD is a plus. Knowledge of and skill with GIS is preferred but not required. Skill in: organizing, collecting information and evaluating data; preparing and presenting technical information for reports and/or documentation;; estimating construction costs; conducting studies. Able to: read and understand construction drawings; able to read and interpret specifications; use computers and related software applications; communicate, interact with co-workers, supervisor, and contractors to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction. Applicants may be tested AND are subject to pre-employment drug testing.

Drop off your CUC Employment Application at the CUC Human Resource Office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan. Otherwise, you may drop it off at the Tinian and Rota Administration Office.

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Warriors ride hot shooting to 115-112 win vs Clippers

AP
Golden State Warriors' Brandon Rush, left, and Stephen Curry, right, prevent Los Angeles Clippers' Jeff Green, center, from scoring during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Feb. 20, 2016, in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Golden State Warriors rebounded from their biggest loss of the season with a dominating shooting performance.

Klay Thompson scored 32 points, fellow Splash Brother Stephen Curry added 23 and the Warriors shot 51 percent in beating the Los Angeles Clippers 115-112 on Saturday night to avoid losing back-to-back games for the first time this season.

"I was just proud of the way we responded from the jump, especially after letting (Portland's) best player go for 50 last night," Thompson said. "We had to give some back. We were out to prove a point that last night was a fluke."

The Warriors were coming off a 32-point drubbing at Portland a night earlier that snapped their 11-game winning streak. They appeared highly motivated to erase that memory from the opening tip, shooting 56 percent in the first half and twice leading by 15 points in the second quarter.

"We can have a letdown night like last night, but we come back and refocus, and turn it on and find a way to get a win against a great team that's been playing well the last 20 or so games," Curry said. "With the short turnaround, we didn't want to have any excuses coming into tonight, and we got it done."

Draymond Green had his NBA-leading 11th triple-double with 18 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists to help the defending champions improve to 49-5.

Jamal Crawford scored 25 points off the bench, Chris Paul added 24 and DeAndre Jordan had 16 points and 21 rebounds for the Clippers. They fell to 19-6 without injured Blake Griffin. Their two earlier losses to the Warriors were by a combined 11 points with Griffin in the lineup.

"They're sort of becoming like San Antonio, they're not going to beat themselves," said Paul, whose thigh bruise got him pulled with 8:09 remaining. "We had a few bad stretches. We know we have to be better and we will be."

The Clippers were coming off a 19-point win over San Antonio on Thursday night. Even with a day of rest, they played behind nearly the entire game.

"Tonight was a good response to a great challenge because the Clippers have been playing really well and they're a great team," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "On the road, after a long flight, that's a great win."

Pablo Prigioni's 3-pointer off Wesley Johnson's steal left the Clippers trailing 115-112 with five seconds to go, long after both teams' best players had gone to the bench. That brought Thompson, Curry, Green and Harrison Barnes back in a hurry.

Andre Iguodala's pass was stolen by C.J. Wilcox, but his desperation 3-pointer to tie fell well short of the basket as time expired.

The game was rarely as close as the final score.

The Clippers again trailed by 15 early in the third when they briefly matched the Warriors basket-for-basket during a furious scoring stretch to close within five on a dunk by Jordan off Crawford's alley-oop pass. Jordan threw down some highlight dunks that had fans roaring and Crawford scored on a one-handed scoop shot, getting fouled as he crashed to the floor and making the free throw for the three-point play.

"It was a horrible offensive night that created a horrible defensive night," Clippers coach Doc Rivers said. "We were impatient. We wanted to win the game so badly we were in our own way."

The Warriors' shooting percentage dipped—barely—to 50 percent in the third when Curry missed a few shots and got called for traveling. The Clippers' defense couldn't stifle them, either from the perimeter or inside. Curry hit a 3-pointer with Paul in his face, and Green caught an inbounds pass from Iguodala in traffic at the basket and scored.

Curry was fouled on a 3-pointer and made two of three before Green's layup kept the Warriors ahead 93-84 going into the fourth.

Golden State went up 14 points early in the fourth on consecutive baskets by Barnes and later stretched it to 18 points on a 7-0 run that included Barnes' second 3 of the quarter.

Heat 114, Wizards 94

In Miami, Hassan Whiteside had 25 points and 23 rebounds in his return from a one-game suspension to help Miami beat Washington.

Whiteside was suspended for throwing an elbow at San Antonio center Boban Marjanovic's head on Feb. 9. It was the 11th time in NBA history that a player has had at least 20 points and 20 rebounds in a game off the bench. It was Whiteside's second 20-20 game in his career.

Luol Deng had 27 points a night after scoring 30 points in a victory at Atlanta, and Goran Dragic added a season-high 24 points and had eight assists and seven rebounds. The Heat played without All-Stars Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh for the second consecutive game.

Wade has a sore left knee, and Bosh is out indefinitely because of a blood clot in his left leg.

Bradley Beal lead the Wizards with 19 points. Washington played for the third consecutive day and was looking for a rare third win in as many days after beating Utah and Detroit.

Bucks 117, Hawks 109, 2OT

In Atlanta, Jabari Parker had career highs of 28 points and 13 rebounds, Greg Monroe added 24 points and Milwaukee Bucks outlated Atlanta in double overtime to end a six-game road skid.

Paul Millsap finished with 27 points, and Dennis Schroder had 25 for the Hawks. Atlanta has lost three straight at home for the first time since March 2014.

The Bucks overcame the late absence of Giannis Antetokounmpo, who fouled out with 1:11 left in regulation, and held on despite Monroe missing a layup that could've clinched the win in the closing seconds of the first overtime. Milwaukee's Khris Middleton, O.J. Mayo and Michael Carter-Williams each missed one of two free throws in the final seconds of regulation and the first overtime.

Knicks 103, Timberwolves 95

In Minneapolis, Carmelo Anthony had 30 points and 11 rebounds and New York beat Minnesota to snap a seven-game losing streak.

Robin Lopez had 26 points and 16 rebounds to give interim coach Kurt Rambis his first victory since taking over for the fired Derek Fisher three games ago. The Knicks outrebounded Minnesota 51-31 and led by 24 points early in the fourth quarter for their first victory since Jan. 29 against Phoenix.

Karl-Anthony Towns had 24 points and eight rebounds, and Andrew Wiggins scored 24 points for the Timberwolves. Ricky Rubio had 16 assists, but they dropped their second straight out of the All-Star break after winning three of four going into it.

Bubba Watson works his way into the lead at Riviera

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Bubba Watson has the 54-hole lead at the Northern Trust Open, and that might not even be the most fun he's had this week.

He took his 3-year-old son to hang out with Justin Bieber. The two-time Masters champion had a small part—one line that he said required four takes—in Disney Channel's show "Girl Meets World." And he couldn't wait to leave Riviera on Saturday so he could get to an NBA game between the Los Angeles Clippers and Golden State Warriors.

"That's the advantage is that I'm friends with a lot of the guys, friends with Steve Ballmer - I don't know if you know him, he's the owner of the Clippers," Watson said.

Winning at Riviera for the second time in three years? That might be gravy.

Watson put himself in prime condition on a gorgeous afternoon along Sunset Boulevard with a 4-under 67, which included an efficient up-and-down for birdie on the par-5 17th to break out of the pack and a par save from the concession area down the hill and to the right of the 18th green.

Navigating the final 18 holes against a strong pack of contenders might be tougher than traffic on the 405.

Dustin Johnson and Rory McIlroy, Adam Scott and Hideki Matsuyama were all among the 10 players within three shots of the lead going into the final round. Watson was at 12-under 201, one shot ahead of Johnson, Jason Kokrak and Chez Reavie.

"We all feel good about our chances, even the guy that's five back," Watson said. "For me, I'm going to go out and try to do the same thing, keep my head down, try to take deep breaths and try to slow it down and hopefully it works out."

Watson hit more fairways on Saturday (10) then the opening two rounds combined. He's not bothered by being in the short grass as much as having the right angle to the green, and what has really left him at ease - as much as Watson is ever at ease - is making the short putts. He has made only three bogeys in 54 holes.

"Knowing that I've won here and knowing that I can play around here, obviously I have a little bit of an advantage on the guy that probably hasn't won here," Watson said.

Kokrak, the 36-hole leader, made three birdies on the back nine to salvage a 70 and remain in the final group. Reavie had a three-shot lead at one point on the back nine, courtesy of a perfectly placed drive that led to eagle on No. 2. But he missed a pair of 8-foot par putts on consecutive holes and had to settle for a 69.

For all the birdies, the final round was shaped largely by pars on the 18th hole.

McIlroy, making his debut at Riviera, made three birdies on the back nine to reach 10 under when he pushed his tee shot too far right on the 18th for the second straight day. This time, he played too much of a fade around the eucalyptus trees, and it tumbled down the hill next to the concessions stand. His chip raced by the hole, leaving a downhill par putt form 18 feet that he made for par.

Blatter era ends as scandal-hit FIFA set to elect new leader

AP

The combo of file photo shows, from left, Jordan's Prince Ali, UEFA Secretary General Gianni Infantino, South African businessman Tokyo Sexwale, former FIFA official Jerome Champagne and Asia's soccer leader Sheikh Salman of Bahrain are the five declared candidates that FIFA announced on Nov. 12, 2015 for the Feb. 26 election. The Sepp Blatter era at FIFA is set to finally end Friday, when soccer's scandal-scarred world body picks a new president after nine months of crisis.

GENEVA (AP)—The Sepp Blatter era at FIFA is set to finally end Friday when soccer's scandal-scarred world body picks a new president after nine months of crisis.

An election meeting designed to give FIFA a fresh start with a new leader could yet be overshadowed by its criminally corrupt past.

Voters return to Zurich this week unsure who is the next target of federal law enforcement agencies in the United States and Switzerland, who have sent FIFA into meltdown with waves of arrests, extraditions and guilty pleas.

Swiss prosecutors could decide this week is best to meet key witnesses in their widening case. Many soccer officials are making possibly their last working trip to Switzerland until May 2019, when the next scheduled FIFA election should be held in Zurich.

At the last election in May, Blatter won a fifth presidential term two days after FIFA's favored five-star hotel in Zurich and its own headquarters were raided. The pressure of criminal investigations soon forced Blatter from his beloved FIFA in his 41st year on the payroll.

Now, leaders of FIFA's 209 member federations visit the tiny Swiss city again to elect a successor for the now-banned 79-year-old who has been president since 1998. The winner will be just the fourth elected FIFA chief in more than 50 years.

Two front-runners have emerged in a five-candidate contest: Asia's soccer leader, Sheikh Salman of Bahrain, and Gianni Infantino, the Swiss general secretary of European governing body UEFA.

The other candidates are: Former FIFA vice president Prince Ali of Jordan, who lost to Blatter in May; former FIFA official Jerome Champagne of France; and South African businessman Tokyo Sexwale, once an inmate of Robben Island prison with Nelson Mandela.

Infantino acknowledged that police could hit FIFA for the fourth time in nine months.

"They know what is best for their work to be done in the most efficient way," Infantino told The Associated Press in a recent interview. "If I'm elected president of FIFA, what they can count on (is) not 100 but 200 percent with me to clean and to put anyone in jail who has done anything bad for football."

The three previous strikes - arresting seven men, including two FIFA vice presidents, on May 27; interrogating Blatter and former protege Michel Platini on Sept. 25; arresting two more FIFA vice presidents on Dec. 3 - were on days that FIFA's discredited executive committee met. It meets again Wednesday.

Sheikh Salman suggests government agencies have tried to influence FIFA politics. That view is shared by Blatter and Russian President Vladimir Putin, who claimed the U.S. wants the 2018 World Cup taken from his country.

"Choosing the time and place during an election or an (executive committee) meeting," Sheikh Salman told the AP this month of previous police raids, "I think this raises a lot of doubts on why, and leave people a bit suspicious on the intentions."

The Bahraini royal was "absolutely" sure FIFA did enough since May to deserve being left in peace this week.

FIFA also hopes so, and aims to persuade the U.S. Depatment of Justice that it is a victim of systemic corruption and should not be indicted.

So, on Friday, the 209 members can also vote through wide-ranging reforms to restructure FIFA. These would dilute the president's authority, empower FIFA's staff and increase oversight by independent experts.

If FIFA was indicted, it would join 41 soccer and marketing officials, plus marketing agencies, who have been charged or pleaded guilty so far in the sprawling U.S. case. Blatter, who cannot be extradited from Switzerland, is a confirmed target.

American investigators have focused on bribery in North and South America valued at $200 million for awarding commercial rights for continental competitions. They also alleged cash-for-votes paid through a FIFA account linked to 2010 World Cup host South Africa.

Swiss prosecutors began by searching for money laundering in the 2018-2022 World Cup bid contests won by Russia and Qatar. Liaising with American counterparts, they went far beyond that brief to target all FIFA business.

Last September, a Swiss criminal case was opened against Blatter for mismanagement of FIFA money. It led FIFA's ethics committee to ban both Blatter and Platini for eight years. Verdicts in their appeals are expected Monday.

Even if barred from the election hall, Blatter has been an election factor taking calls from voters seeking advice, he told a French radio station this week.

"Vote with your conscience. Vote for who you find good," said Blatter, who has criticized Infantino in interviews. They were born in neighboring villages in the Valais region.

Infantino's campaign has tempted voters with more: Expanding the World Cup from 32 to 40 teams to increase FIFA's $5 billion tournament income; bigger annual grants to national and continental bodies; new money for small regional groups.

Salman's manifesto is closer to Blatter's thinking though he promises a hands-off leadership style.

Still, there is genuine warmth between the favorites.

"I get along very well with him," Sheikh Salman said of Infantino. "He's a great guy."

Infantino has not directly criticized the sheikh, who led Bahrain's soccer federation during Arab Spring protests in 2011.

Prince Ali did attack, saying Sheikh Salman cannot gain respect because he failed to protect Bahrain national team players who were detained for attending pro-democracy events. They later alleged torture by security forces.

In a potentially tight race, one theory has Prince Ali's voters holding the balance of power.

A plausible scenario sees Sheikh Salman and Infantino with significant support in the first-round ballot, yet short of up to 140 votes needed for outright victory, and maybe fewer than the 105-plus tally which could persuade rivals to concede ahead of a second vote.

Barca wins, Arsenal draws before Champions League match

BARCELONA (AP)—Luis Suarez and Neymar kept Barcelona on course to retain its Spanish league title with goals in another win on Saturday, as the European titleholders warmed up to visit Arsenal in the Champions League.

While Barcelona extended its club-record unbeaten run to 32 straight matches, Arsenal was held by Hull to a scoreless draw in the FA Cup, forcing a replay.

Bayern Munich and Paris Saint-Germain also both won to stay in control of the German and French title races.

Suarez and Neymar scored again to lead Barcelona to a 2-1 victory at Las Palmas in the Canary Islands.

Suarez struck six minutes into the match, and Neymar re-established the visitors' advantage before halftime by finishing off a rebound of a shot by Lionel Messi after Las Palmas striker Willian Jose had made it 1-1.

Barcelona increased the gap to nine points before second-place Atletico Madrid hosts fourth-place Villarreal on Sunday.

But to win their eighth Liga match in a row, Barcelona needed Las Palmas to miss two clear chances when a late push by the club in danger of falling back into the second division came up empty.

"In order to win titles, you have to pull out games like these," Suarez said.

Elsewhere, Celta Vigo edged Eibar 3-2 to leapfrog the Basque club into sixth place.

Espanyol ended an eight-round winless streak by beating Deportivo La Coruna 1-0, and Sporting Gijon drew 1-1 at Real Betis.

In England, Arsenal's bid for a third straight FA Cup title was checked by a frustrating 0-0 draw against Hull in the fifth round, forcing the teams into yet another meeting in the competition.

Fielding a weakened team ahead of a Champions League last-16 match against Barcelona on Tuesday, Arsenal created a slew of chances against second-tier Hull but was denied by a mixture of poor finishing and good goalkeeping from Eldin Jakupovic.

It is the third straight year that Arsenal and Hull have met in the FA Cup. Arsenal won in the final in 2014 and also in the third round last season on its way to winning the trophy for a record 12th time.

West Bromwich Albion exited in disgrace, though, losing 3-1 at second-tier Reading before its captain, Chris Brunt, was struck near his eye by a coin thrown by one of his team's own supporters after the game.

Premier League teams Everton and Watford also advanced to the quarterfinals. Everton beat Bournemouth 2-0, while Watford downed second-tier Leeds 1-0.

In Germany, Thomas Mueller scored twice for Bayern Munich in a 3-1 come-from-behind victory over Darmstadt that stretched the side's overnight lead in the Bundesliga to 11 points over Borussia Dortmund.

Mueller canceled out Sandro Wagner's opener three minutes after the break and then won the game with a spectacular overhead kick in the 71st.

Substitute Franck Ribery, who returned from injury, crossed for Robert Lewandowski to complete the scoring with his league-leading 22nd goal of the season.

Bayern next travels to Turin for the first leg of its Champions League showdown with Juventus on Tuesday.

Also Saturday, Hertha Berlin drew 1-1 with Wolfsburg to provisionally reclaim third place, while Bremen lost 2-0 in Ingolstadt, Borussia Moenchengladbach defeated Cologne 1-0, and Hoffenheim beat Mainz 3-2.

In France, Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice and set up two more as runaway leader PSG crushed Reims 4-1 to remain 24 points clear of second-place Monaco.

Ibrahimovic netted his 22nd and 23rd league goals and assisted right back Gregory van der Wiel and strike partner Edinson Cavani.

Monaco beat last-place Troyes 3-1, with striker Guido Carrillo scoring twice.

In other games, it was: Lorient 4, Guingamp 3; Angers 2, Montpellier 3; and Toulouse 1, Ajaccio 1.

In Italy, inspired by Jose Mourinho in the stands, Inter Milan got back to winning ways in style, beating Sampdoria 3-1 to move to within one point of third place in Serie A.

Danilo D'Ambrosio, Joao Miranda, and Mauro Icardi scored to send Inter to only its fourth win of the year.

Former Inter coach Mourinho was at San Siro to watch his old team for the first time since leading the Nerazzurri to the treble in 2010. He was roundly cheered by the fans, while there was also a halftime choreography dedicated to him.

Hellas Verona also beat Chievo Verona 3-1.

Marlins excited to have Bonds as hitting coach

MIAMI (AP) — Giancarlo Stanton grew up a Dodgers fan and remembers attending their games when Barry Bonds would step to the plate for the Giants.

"It's one of those sounds you never forget—how loud those boos were," Stanton said.

Bonds has turned down the volume by keeping a low profile since 2007, his final year as a player. Now the polarizing home run king is back in the major leagues as hitting coach for Stanton and the Miami Marlins.

Bonds wore his familiar No. 25 and a smile as he faced a cluster of notebooks and cameras during media day Saturday at Marlins Park. The session included no boos or questions about steroids, and only one brief reference to the Hall of Fame, where Bonds is an uncharacteristic 0 for 4 in the annual balloting.

He received 44 percent of the vote in January, a career high but far short of the 75 percent needed for induction. Nonetheless, he said he considers himself a Hall of Famer.

"There's not one player that ever could say I'm not one," he said. "There's not a coach who ever coached me who says I'm not one. In my heart and soul, and God knows, I'm a Hall of Famer."

Bonds will likely hear some jeers around the NL this season. Marlins players have expressed no reservations about working with the steroids-tainted slugger, however, and Stanton sounded enthusiastic despite an inadvertent choice of words that caused a few double-takes.

"I'm going to go in the lab, get to work and see what we can come up with," he said.

Bonds will begin working with Stanton, reigning NL batting champion Dee Gordon and two-time AL batting champ Ichiro Suzuki, among others, when the full squad reports for spring training Tuesday in Jupiter, Florida.

"He can help everybody," veteran infielder Chris Johnson said. "If you can't pick something up from him, I don't know who can help you. You'd be an idiot not to be picking his brain all the chances you get."

Bonds might agree. He said he knows what will work if a player is willing to put in the time, and as a mentor, he said he can be another Willie Mays.

"It's great to be in the position I'm in, the same thing as my godfather Willie was," he said.

Bonds said spring training will be a time to develop relationships and perhaps step on toes. He was already acquainted with Stanton, who played against Bonds' son in high school in Los Angeles and grew up a fan of the Giants slugger.

"Me and my brother would fight over his rookie cards and stuff," Stanton said. "I still have a couple I stole from him."

Bonds is the career leader in home runs with 762 and a seven-time NL MVP, but the Marlins are treating him like one of the guys. Ace Jose Fernandez, a .190 career hitter, joked that he can hit the ball farther than the new hitting coach.

"I'm 51 years old, so he'd better," Bonds responded with a laugh. "If he doesn't, he's terrible."

In recent years Bonds worked as a guest instructor for the Giants in spring training and privately tutored several players, including Alex Rodriguez. Hiring him in Miami was team owner Jeffrey Loria's idea, and new manager Don Mattingly supported the move.

Bonds said he has missed competition and clubhouse camaraderie, and saw coaching as a way to honor his late father, former major leaguer Bobby Bonds, who taught Barry how to hit.

Bonds convinced the Marlins he's willing to put in the long hours the job requires.

"I've been a hitting coach, and I know how much time it takes," Mattingly said. "I wanted to make sure Barry was ready for that, and he was."

Mattingly, a six-time All-Star, said the hiring upgraded his staff's collective resume.

"Between me and Barry," Mattingly said with a smile, "we hit over a thousand homers."

AP

In this Feb. 23, 2005, file photo, San Francisco Giants' Barry Bonds, left, is greeted on the field by Giants' coach and former manager Jimmy Davenport, right, during spring training at Scottsdale Stadium in Scottsdale, Ariz. Bonds is now with the Miami Marlins, serving as the team's hitting coach.

Ace Hardware routs 360 Restaurant

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Ace Hardware cruised to 75-59 victory over 360 Restaurant in the first game in the 2016 Emon Lodge No. 179 Brotherhood/IT&E Basketball League last Wednesday at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

Djay Ong powered Ace Hardware to the 16-point win after firing 35 markers. Two other Ace Hardware players finished in twin digits with Jethro Cruz and Sid Quan adding 13 and 11, respectively, to back up Ong.

With Ong finding his target early, Ace Hardware led right at the get-go and never gave 360 Restaurant a chance to bounce back. Ong knocked in 10 points in the first period, including 8 straight markers midway in that canto to give Ace Hardware a 21-10 advantage.

The young Ace Hardware forward added 10 more in the second frame to stretch their lead to 14 at the break, 38-24. Ong traded baskets with 360 Restaurant's Kenneth Viray and got support from Quan and Cruz to help Ace Hardware keep its double-digit advantage.

Ong was still unstoppable in the second half and capped his long-game brilliance with 12 more markers in the fourth quarter to hand Ace Hardware its third victory in four games. He also won his shootout against Viray, who finished with a team-high 24 markers.

Roy Hernandez was the only other twin-digit scorer for 360 Restaurant, but most of his points came when the game was already decided.

Ace Hardware 75— Ong 35, Cruz 12, Quan 11, Brennan 8, Younis 4, Chariton 3, Camacho 2.

360 Restaurant 59 — Viray 24, Hernandez 13, Cabanas 8, Raynor 6, Claveria 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-10, 38-24, 52-42, 75-59.

Youth league meeting today

Organizers of the Francisco M. Diaz Memorial Youth League are calling on representatives of participating teams to attend a meeting today at 5pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Agenda will include final submission of rosters, waivers, registration forms and protocol for the opening ceremonies on Feb. 29 At present, there are 10 teams for 15 and under and 11 teams for 18 and under. For more inquiries, contact league organizer Elias Rangamar at 287-6347 or email at eli_rang@yahoo.com. ***(PR)***

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around across Hakubotan in Beach Road.

In the men's division, Keith Longuski won with the field's fastest time of 34:40. Longuski moved up to the longer race after conquering last year's 5K event with his time of 20:05.

Longuski's time in 2015 was eclipsed by Agape Christian School's Hao Yu Chen, who registered 18:31 to place ahead of the pack in the 5K race and also won the boys U19 division. Micronesian Games veteran Noriko Jim duplicated Chen's record-breaking time as the former logged 21:09 in last weekend's event to surpass the 23:48 she posted when she prevailed in the women's 5K contest last year. This year's 5K event also had a course change with runners also starting at Carolinian Utt and turning around across Star Marianas Water in Beach Road.

Meanwhile, the other 5K top finishers in their respective age groups were Angel Marie Tan, Stephanie Moline, Pipit Ball, Gary Bandoja, Steven Pixley, and Jane Stewart.

Tan made it to the finish line at the 29:22 mark to take top honors in the women's 19 and under, while Moline clocked in at 26:05 to win in the 20 to 29 division. In the women's 30 to 39, Ball submitted a field best 22:48, while Bandoja had the fastest time (21:25) in the men's 40 to 49. In the over 50, Pixley and Stewart timed in at 21:27 and 25:54, respectively, to bag the first place medal in the men's and women's divisions.

Medals were also awarded to the top finishers in each age group in the 10K race. The list includes Chang Whan Jang, Lorie Hutchison, Conatsu Kaga, Caleb Wang, Charlie Sendin, and Fr. James Balajadia.

Nearly 300 hundred joined last weekend's race, surpassing 2015's count of 196. McDonald's Saipan and Rotary Club of Saipan jointly organized the event.

MALIKA

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Kaga and Miyawaki faced off anew after they swept their respective semis assignments. At the top half of the draw, Miyawaki ousted Riko Ojima, who marched into the Final Four following a 6-1, 6-4 triumph over Rei Sekiguchi last Friday. At the bottom half, Kaga defeated Maria Gregoire, 6-2, 6-3, last Saturday. Earlier last Friday, Gregoire had a similar 6-2, 6-3 win over Susan Sablan to set up a semis date against Kaga.

Meanwhile, two other junior girls singles events were played in the opening week of the Pacific Islands Club-organized tournament with the top-ranked Carol Lee and Conatsu's sibling Coume winning their respective divisions.

The heavily favored Lee delivered as expected after ruling the girls U16 singles contest. She drew a bye in last Friday's opening round and automatically advanced to the semifinals where she was pitted against Asia Raulerson. Lee went on enter the finals following a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Raulerson, who played in the U16 for the first time after claiming the U14 crown in last week's 2016 White Coconut Classic and earned the right to face Lee in the semis after knocking out Ami Tsukagoshi, 7-5, 6-3.

Lee's finals foe was Mimi Sakano, who eased her way to the championship game after winning via default over Tania Tan (ill). Lee shut down Sakano in the opening set, 6-0, and capped her domination in the girls' U16 finale with a 6-1 win in the second.

In the girls U12 singles title match, Coume labored in three sets to thwart perennial rival Ericka Tuttle. The younger Kaga took the first set, 6-4, but failed to close out the match early when Tuttle came back with a 6-3 triumph. In the deciding third set, Coume had enough gas left on her tank to pull away, 6-1.

Coume made in to the finals after topping Michelle Ryu in the semis, 6-2, 6-0. Ryu, on the other hand, bagged a semis berth following a 6-3, 6-2 win against Anika Camacho at the upper half of the draw. At the lower half, Tuttle blanked Thaileena Raulerson, 6-0, 6-0, to force another title showdown against Coume.

Tuttle and Coume met in the girls U12 singles division finals of the Tan Holdings Classic with the latter getting her first championship of the season after registering a 6-3, 6-4 victory against the former.

Besides the girls juniors singles, three boys juniors singles events and adults doubles were played in Week 1 of the PIC tournament and results will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Tuesday and Wednesday issues.

CNMI vs Chuo University Countrys Friendly

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Chuo University Countrys' Gen Kawamura dribbles in front of the CNMI's Ryan Relucio during the second half of their friendly game last Thursday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

The CNMI's Joshua De Leon falls down after colliding with Chuo University Countrys players.

Chuo University Countrys' Kosuke Okawa goes for a header against the CNMI's John Diego Masga and goalie Christopher Aninzo.

The CNMI's Ryan Relucio, second right, receives a pass, while teammate John Diego Masga, right, looks and a Chuo University Countrys' player gets ready to play defense.

The CNMI's Ryan Relucio, right, and Ryu Tanzawa, second right, shadow Chuo University Countrys' Yuto Koizumi.

Chuo University Countrys' Gen Kawamura is tightly guarded by the CNMI's Ryan Relucio.

The CNMI's Alan Hinson watches Chuo University Countrys' Hiroki Ando.

The CNMI's Kennedy Izuka, right, defends against a header from Kazuhiro Kawakame.

Warriors ride on hot shooting to beat Clippers

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Sports

Blatter era ends as scandal-hit FIFA set to elect new leader

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Malika prevails in rematch vs Conatsu

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Malika Miyawaki made it two in a row against Conatsu Kaga this season after pulling off a three-set victory in their title game in the girls U14 singles in the 16th PIC Tennis Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Miyawaki prevailed in the weekend rematch, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, to duplicate her title conquest against the same foe in the 7th Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic held last November. She downed Kaga, 6-3, 6-3, in the first tournament of Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association for the 2015-2016 season.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Malika Miyawaki makes a baseline return to Conatsu Kaga during their girls U14 singles title match in the 16th PIC Tennis Championships yesterday at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

Repeat winners in Rotary McFun Run

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Familiar faces emerged as top finishers in last Saturday's 2016 Rotary McFun Run.

Mamiko Berger, who ruled the 10K division in the inaugural event last year, placed second overall, but first in the women's division after completing the race from Carolinian Utt in Garapan to Oleai Beach Bar and back in 37:13, which was faster than her 2015 time. The CNMI's veteran middle and long distance runner submitted 42:21 last year when the 10K course started at the American Memorial Park with a turn-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mamiko Berger, left, and Keith Longuski flash the No. 1 sign after winning the 10K event in last Saturday's Rotary McFun Run.

22 teams confirm participation in SLLB

Twenty-two teams will be seeing action in the 2016 Saipan Little League Baseball which will open this Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacio Ballfield.

"We are secured with the 22 teams, 10 in the Majors and 4 each in the Junior, Senior, and Big League divisions," SLLB president A.J. Muris told *Saipan Tribune.*

Last season's finalist Braves lead the Majors division cast and will be joined by the Talaabwogh Falcons, Comets, IT&E Kagman, Pirates, Little Legals, McDonald's, and Twins. One more team has yet to select its name. Interestingly, the 2015 champion Bank of Saipan Red Sox is not on the list.

For the Junior League, the defending champions Falcons are back and will be vying for the division crown against the Enforcers, Braves, and Red Sox. The Red Sox, Falcons, and defending champions Enforcers also entered teams in the Senior League, while the Comets complete the field. In the Big League, the division is without defending champion Fielders, leaving the Braves, Yankees, Comets, and Red Sox the chance to battle for the championship.

Meanwhile, Murig said the two fields—"Tan Ko" and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan ballfields—are being prepared in time for this weekend's opening.

"I believe the 'Tan Ge' field is just about done with the fencing that was picked backup by Best Sunshine's CSR Division. Tony Rogolifoi and his crew are working on the infield already," the SLLB head added.

Murig also announced that a final meeting will be held this Wednesday at 5:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymasium. Managers and coaches of the participating teams are required to attend the meeting as details of the opening will be discussed and ground rules will be finalized. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
A Majors division coach gives batting pointers to his player during a training session at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield last Thursday.